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Article Notes 'Unease' Over Mekong River Issue

BK2103024592 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 21 Mar 92 p 4

[Article by Supaphon Kanwerayotin: "The Mekong: More of a Liability Than an Asset?"]

[Text] Protection of vital interests over the Mekong River is threatening the new-found friendship between Thailand and Vietnam.

Signs of unease over the Mekong issue have surfaced since the landmark visit of Vietnamese Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet to Thailand last October. But they were quickly drowned as both sides persevered in the high-profile diplomacy to depict a new era of relations free from past misunderstandings and mistrust.

It was not until last week that a complete picture came into sight, producing a sad irony. The Mekong River, which should serve as the focus of a new regional order, was transformed into a bone of contention.

Currently the rotating chairman of the Mekong Committee, Thailand abruptly cancelled an informal meeting in Chiang Rai in mid-February, just hours before the meeting took place. The reason, which Deputy Foreign Minister Wichian Watanakun disclosed in an extensive interview on Wednesday, was that Vietnam toughened its position at the last minute.

In an almost the same hasty fashion, Thailand initiated another back-to-back meeting last Sunday to drive its point home.

Ironically, it was Cambodia which triggered this conflict of interest. More accurately, Thailand and Vietnam used Cambodia to best secure their vital interests.

Both Thailand and Vietnam agreed that Cambodia, which has withheld participation since the Khmer Rouge rule, should be brought back to the Mekong regional framework now that the Cambodian peace treaty signed last year bodes well for such cooperation.

But differences arose as the two sides wanted their priority concerns addressed, playing upon Cambodia's entry to the Mekong Committee. Which is unfortunate for Cambodia.

Thailand wanted to make sure that her interests would not be jeopardised by old rules that would apply should the Mekong cooperation regime be resurrected in its original form. Therefore, it intended to have the regime restructured in line with the new situation before Cambodia sets foot in.

At the same time, Vietnam believed that changes to the framework must be agreed upon by the four original members, namely Thailand, Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia.

Vietnam's view was shared by a senior diplomat, who said the Thai Foreign Ministry had mishandled the Mekong issue. First of all, he said, Thailand should not have cancelled the Chiang Rai meeting on such short notice.

Secondly, the idea of bringing in China and Burma was a bad mistake. Thailand's proposal on China has made Vietnam even less disposed towards reaching agreement.

Thailand should have consulted the other three original members on how best to rewrite a compromise set of rules before discussing new members, the diplomat said. That way, the Vietnamese would have been more willing to negotiate.

A Vietnamese source, meanwhile said the Mekong was becoming more of a liability than an asset "when an easy question was made difficult."

With the Thai strategy cancelling the Chiang Rai meeting when a delegation had already arrived from Hanoi, and then urging participation at another meeting without a clear explanation on purpose and agenda—Hanoi felt it was being "pushed around and treated unfairly," the source said.

Vietnam's suspicion of the Thai motives heightened with Bangkok's lobbying for China to be part of the show. It was learned that China only confirmed to the Foreign Ministry in the afternoon of March 13 that her Ambassador to Thailand was going to attend the session.

Vietnam also felt uncomfortable when Thailand sought participation by China and Burma without consulting the original members.

"If the strategy is to win over Laos and Cambodia, and isolate Vietnam, then what is all the talk about confidence-building?" the source said.

Doomed from the start, the March 15-16 meeting ended in deadlock. Deputy Foreign Minister Wichian admitted that Laos was hesitant, while it was "difficult" for Cambodia, with four rival factions, to embrace the Thai proposal at the meeting.

The participation of Burmese Foreign Minister Ohn Gyaw, in town for an anti-narcotics conference, was also trumpeted by Thailand as another example of success in its constructive engagement policy with Burma.

Deputy Foreign Minister Wichian, in the tell-all press briefing, explained how Thailand's interests would be endangered if Cambodia arrived and the Mekong Committee functioned under the original set of rules.

"In principle there is no doubt about our support for the participation of Cambodia. But if we go back to use the old rules, it means that Thailand will not be able to use a single drop of water from the Mekong to develop the Northeast," he said.

Under the old rules which were written purely out of technical perspective, Thailand's hands are tied by so many requirements that it sovereignty is infringed upon.

"It is very difficult to have outsiders supervise or even stop the various projects undertaken in our country. This is also impossible from the international legal standpoint. The Northeast, with water being its biggest problem, represents our vital interest. We cannot afford to have what we had done in the Northeast unravelled because of the entry of Cambodia," he said.

Under the Mekong Committee's original framework, Thailand is committed to the largest number of regulations as the uppermost country of the regime at that time.

"If the Northeast of Thailand cannot get any share from the abundant resources of the Mekong, where else can we get the water?" he said. This is not fair given the fact that the Mekong's catchment area in Thailand totals about 23 percent and contribution of water to the mainstream is 23 percent, Thai officials argue.

Regarding China, whose catchment area amounts to 22 percent and contributing between 18-19 percent of water to the stream, the minister explained that the country should be involved as part of the Thai-proposed new regional order supported by the sharing of the Mekong.

China has been very keen. It was dispatching a delegation led by a vice minister to observe the Chiang Rai meeting when a last-minute cable from Bangkok managed to stop their departure from Peking in time.

"We have explained it all to China. But we understand that China must be very careful about its position being in the uppermost part of the stream. So we proposed that the ambassador attending the meeting would be fine," Mr Wichian said.

Thailand commended the role of China, which could easily ignore the Mekong cooperation regime. However, Thailand wanted to "make China feel closer" to the region through its involvement in the regime.

Urging a solution of compromise as soon as possible, Mr Wichian said the options offered by Thailand are very flexible and transparent.

The Anan administration, having pursued the policy of befriendly its neighbours, intended to lay solid groundwork for future cooperation. It pushing for the March 15-16 meeting so that the Cabinet could have the Mekong cooperation as the farewell piece of achievement in its final meeting on March 17.

Describing Vietnam's concerns as legitimate, Mr Wichian however stressed that those legitimate concerns must not be excessive or override the Thai sovereignty. Interests of all parties sharing the river must be mutually accommodated.

The Thai proposal for the Mekong cooperation, he said, was built upon the principle of equitable and reasonable use of resources.

As outlined in the Basic Concept for Restructuring of regime of Cooperation in the Mekong, all Mekong riparian states including China and Burma should fully participate in the basin-wide developmental activities and hence in the restructuring of the regime of cooperation in the Mekong.

In order to ensure the continuity of projects, the existing Interim Mekong Committee with equal participation by all lower Mekong riparian states should remain fully functional until the parallel restructuring of the regime of cooperation among the upper and lower Mekong riparian states is completed, the Thai document stated.

Thailand hopes to convene an informal meeting of the four original members to discuss its proposal before the end of next month, according to Mr Wichian.

"Thailand is cornered. Still we could offer some flexibility in terms of options," he said.

"Thailand can only yield as far as China can " when it comes to commitment to the Mekong regional framework, the deputy foreign minister said.

Finally, he admitted that Vietnam still remains "far far from us," and that Hanoi apparently does not "feel the same way that Laos and Cambodia do towards us."

Japan

No Uruguay Round Pact Predicted Before Nov

OW2803114292 Tokyo KYODO in English 1129 GMT 28 Mar 92

[Text] Otawara, Tochigi Pref., March 28 KYODO—Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe predicted Saturday that global trade talks known as the Uruguay Round will not be concluded before the U.S. presidential election in November.

The Uruguay Round talks under the auspices of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) will be "in a state of freeze" until the presidential race is over, he said in a speech.

Disputes over agricultural reform have blocked the conclusion of the global trade liberalization negotiations, which began in 1986.

Watanabe also said he does not want to see Japan isolated from the rest of the world by refusing to open its rice market to imports.

In another speech in his native Tochigi Prefecture, Watanabe said Russia's subscriptions to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) will be above "2.5 percent" but below Saudi Arabia's 3.51 percent.

Russia and other former Soviet republics will account for 4.25 percent of IMF's total subscriptions.

GATT Talks 'May Be Extended'

OW3003122692 Tokyo KYODO in English 1147 GMT 30 Mar 92

[Text] Tokyo, March 30 KYODO—The Uruguay Round trade talks may be extended beyond the mid-April deadline in view of friction between the United States and Europe over farm and service trade issues, government sources reported Monday.

The sources said the Trade Negotiations Committee (TNC) of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) will hold a meeting in the middle of April to straighten out differences between the United States and the European Community.

They said the TNC session will likely be held around April 19, the deadline set by GATT Director General Arthur Dunkel for the final agreement on the negotiations.

The sources said the negotiations would be extended until around July when leaders of seven western industrialized nations will hold an economic summit in Munich, Germany.

The group of seven countries consists of Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and the United States.

Dunkel, who is scheduled to resign as head of the GATT at the end of this year, is opposed to a long-term extension of the trade negotiations, the sources said.

Japan will insist on its opposition to the opening of its rice market with the House of Councillors election in July in mind, the sources said.

U.S. Seeks Liberalization of Telecommunications

OW2803070[illegible]92 Tokyo KYODO in English 0648 GMT 28 Mar 92

[Text] Tokyo, March 28 KYODO—The United States has proposed dismantling all regulations on telecommunications as part of a global free trade pact, making it harder to reach an April deadline for wrapping up the agreement, Japanese trade sources said Saturday.

The U.S. is threatening to stop granting foreign companies equal treatment in its U.S. telecommunications market if they do not accept the proposal, the sources said.

U.S. trade negotiators presented the new proposal in mid-March to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) in Geneva, the world trade watchdog, the sources said.

The proposal targets international and domestic long-distance telecommunications services and free entry into other countries' telecommunications markets, they said.

Such services are among the 15 sectors being discussed under the current GATT-sponsored Uruguay round of talks for drafting new rules on free world trade.

The U.S. has taken the lead in liberalizing its telecommunications market, leaving many other countries behind.

France and Germany, two of the 12 European Community member countries, and South Korea are among countries that continue to clamp tight regulations on their telecommunications markets.

Japan, for its part, launched a drive to liberalize its telecommunications market in 1985, but still limits foreign ownership in Japanese telecommunications companies to less than one-third of their capital.

The U.S. still limits foreign ownership in wireless telecommunications companies to less than 20 percent but places no restraints on cable telecommunications services.

FTC Relaxes Rules on Business Relations

OW3003044992 Tokyo KYODO in English 0315 GMT 30 Mar 92

[Text] Tokyo, March 30—Japan's Fair Trade Commission (FTC) put into effect Monday a relaxation of rules aimed at preventing anticompetitive practices through international business tie-ups.

Under the former regulations, Japanese and foreign companies which established any kind of cooperative ties had to report such arrangements to the FTC within 30 days.

If the deals were found to violate the rules, the FTC issued warnings and asked for their revision.

Under the relaxed rules, the kinds of international cooperation that must be reported will be drastically reduced, with the number of reported cases expected to fall by 85 to 90 percent from the current average annual level of 6,000.

The relaxation came in response to criticism from the United States and other countries that the FTC rules were discriminatory against foreign firms as similar partnerships among Japanese firms did not have to be reported.

Miyazawa 'Likely' To Visit U.S. Before Summit

OW3003090392 Tokyo KYODO in English 0835 GMT 30 Mar 92

[Text] Tokyo, March 30 KYODO—Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa is likely to visit the United States in late June or early July prior to the summit meeting of seven major industrial countries to be held in Munich in July, government sources said Monday.

Miyazawa visited New York in late January to attend the summit talks of member nations of the United Nations Security Council.

If realized, the visit will be the first official one by Miyazawa to the U.S. since he took office in November.

U.S. President George Bush visited Tokyo in early January to discuss bilateral and international affairs, especially trade and economic frictions between the two countries.

Okinawa Military Workers Stage Sit-In Strike

OW2703110492 Naha OKINAWA TIMES in Japanese 27 Mar 92 Morning Edition p 2

[Text] The Okinawa Chapter of the All-Japan Garrison Forces Labor Union [Zenchuro] (with Misao Kamiyama as its chairman) staged a sit-in strike in front of Camp Butler, where the headquarters of the U.S. Marine Corps on Okinawa is located, in Ishihira, Kitanakagusuku village, on 26 March. Some 200 Zenchuro members staged the strike to appeal to the U.S. military for an early realization of three conditions for improved wages, which the Zenchuro has set as a major goal in this year's spring labor offensive. The Zenchuro also plans to stage a nationwide two-hour strike on 10 April.

On 26 March, the Zenchuro staged the sit-in strike from 0800 to 1600 in concert with other strikes held in front of seven major military bases in mainland Japan; namely, those in Aomori, Kanagawa, Hiroshima, Yamaguchi, and Nagasaki Prefectures. The Okinawa Zenchuro's demand for the realization of conditions for improved wages includes: 1) shortening of the pay raise period from the current 18 months to 12 months; and 2) abolition of a wage system applied to employees who reach the retirement age without a pay raise. In this connection, the Defense Facilities Administration Agency has provided a budget for this. However, the U.S. military side has said, "We will study it." The Zenchuro said that "since it is a long-pending issue, we want to intensify our struggle."

Foreign Minister on Disputes With PRC, Russia

OW2803125092 Tokyo KYODO in English 1230 GMT 28 Mar 92

[Text] Ujiie, Tochigi Pref. KYODO—Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe said Saturday Japan hopes to reach a basic agreement on the long-standing territorial dispute with Russia before Russian President Boris Yeltsin visits in mid-September.

Watanabe, who is also deputy prime minister, said in a lecture here he will visit Moscow in May to talk with Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev and meet with Yeltsin to help resolve the territorial issue.

Watanabe and Kozyrev met as foreign ministers for the first time in Tokyo last week.

Japan claims four islands off northernmost Hokkaido which were seized by the former Soviet Union at the end of World War II.

During his lecture, Watanabe also stressed the need to make sure China and Japan do not lock horns over China's renewed claim to the Senkaku Islands when Chinese Communist Party General Secretary Jiang Zemin visits April 6-10. Japan also claims the islands, which are southwest of the Japanese main islands in the East China Sea.

China passed a law February 25 stipulating the Senkaku Islands, known as the Diaoyutai Archipelago in Chinese, are its indigenous territory.

Watanabe said Tokyo anticipates a trouble-free conclusion to the Senkaku dispute with Beijing.

Watanabe also discussed the Japanese economy, calling for a cut in the official discount rate of more than 0.75 percentage point from the current 4.5 percent per annum.

The Bank of Japan is expected to lower the key lending rate by 0.5 percentage point to 4.0 percent, possibly next week as part of the efforts to prop up the faltering Japanese economy.

Watanabe, citing a possible drastic slowdown in the economy, proposed starting public works projects for fiscal 1992 in the first half of the year, as well as a further credit easing.

It is time the government declared the end of the so-called "bubble economy" because further declines in stock prices are not welcome, Watanabe said, referring to the recent plunge in stock prices. The bubble economy of the late 1980s was marked by rapid rises in stock and land prices.

He also referred to the possibility of forming a coalition government with his ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), Komeito, the Democratic Socialist Party (DSP), and the Rengo-no-kai after the July House of Councillors election if they agree on basic policies, including defense.

Rengo-no-kai is the political arm of the nation's largest labor organization, the Japan Trade Union Confederation (Rengo).

Watanabe said he laid down conditions for settling the territorial dispute in his talks with Kozyrev in Tokyo.

"I am supposed to receive the answers at the time of my visit to Moscow" in May, he said.

Watanabe also said Japan is prepared to provide more than 15 million dollars to an international center in Moscow for former Soviet nuclear scientists.

The United States and the 12-nation European Community (EC) have pledged 25 million dollars each to the center project, which is aimed at deterring the scientists from fleeing to countries that do not have friendly relationships with the West.

Japan has rejected a request by the U.S. and the EC to come up with a 25 million dollar contribution, saying its gross national product (GNP) and other data do not warrant the same amount of aid as America's or the EC's.

Watanabe said he proposed the 15 million dollar figure but expressed readiness to raise the amount somewhat if the move does not become a precedent for similar requests in the future.

Kakizawa Interviewed About Visit to Cambodia

BK2703011592 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 27 Mar 92 p 5

[Text] Japan is expected to pass only the section of its United Nations Cooperation Bill which allows non-combatant forces from its Self-Defence Force to join UN peace-keeping operations in Cambodia.

The country's Diet reconvenes in May.

On his return from a visit to Cambodia and Vietnam to assess their needs, Mr Koji Kakizawa, the parliamentary vice-minister for foreign affairs, told the POST that sending only non-combatants to Cambodia is what Japan can do under current circumstances.

Japan's so-called pacifist Constitution, drafted by the United States occupation forces following World War II, renounces the threat or use of force to settle international disputes.

Imperial Japan's past record in Asia remains a major concern for a number of Asian countries and sectors of the Japanese public who fear the despatch of Japan's Army may revive its World War II militarism.

However, the US has been pressuring Japan to contribute towards international peace and order to a level commensurate with its economic status.

The Japanese Government also wants the SDF to participate in UN peace-keeping operations to gain international recognition and respect, but failed to overcome public opposition when the legislation, also known as the PKO Bill, was presented to the Diet last year.

Retaining only non-combatant participation gives supporters of the SDF joining UN peace-keeping operations their best chance of having the bill passed in May.

"Perhaps the US will ask more, but if we consider the delicate sentiment of Asian countries, perhaps it is better to be careful about the military participation.

"Therefore, the first step will be the medical unit, or transport unit, or demining unit," Mr Kakizawa said.

Although non-combatant, these units will be made up of SDF personnel because of the dangerous situation in Cambodia.

He said demobilisation of the armies all four Cambodian factions under the UN peace plan is "a little dangerous; they (the SDF) should bring some arms. We need the vote of the Diet again. The (combatant forces) part will be frozen."

Mr Kakizawa stressed the success of the UN peace plan in Cambodia is dependent on the speed of deployment of UN forces and disbursement of funds from donor countries.

He will make this statement clear to the Japanese Government on his return to Tokyo.

"Deployment of UN forces should be done as quick as possible. If not, the rainy season will come and the resistance of Pol Pot guerrillas will be made easier than in the dry season.

"The speed of the operation is vital for the success of the UN plan.

"We have to hurry up financial contributions and also hurry up sending personnel necessary for this operation," Mr Kakizawa said.

Mr Kakizawa said it is too premature to say how many SDF members are expected to be sent for noncombat operations.

"In the hundreds, but no more than what ASEAN has sent."

Thailand has sent two battalions for demining operations, each comprising 850 men.

Turning to his three-day visit to Cambodia, Mr Kakizawa, who was accompanied by Kazuyoshi Urabe, deputy director-general of the Asian Affairs Bureau of the Foreign Ministry, expressed Japan's firm commitment to the UN peace plan, but stressed the cooperation of all four Cambodian factions is vital.

"Japan will continue its commitment but the self-effort of Cambodia in respecting the composition and forum of the Supreme National Council (SNC) is the most important point.

"I asked every leader to keep the SNC system workable. If the UNTAC cannot play its role effectively in gaining the cooperation of the four Cambodian factions, then durable and stable peace will not be achieved."

Mr Kakizawa asked for all four factions to cooperate with Yasushi Akashi, the Japanese UN official who was appointed head of the UNTAC.

Preparatory Meeting on Rebuilding Cambodia Opens

OW3003084092 Tokyo KYODO in English 0818 GMT 30 Mar 92

[Text] Tokyo, March 30 KYODO—Japan on Monday hosted a preparatory conference on the reconstruction of Cambodia, and appealed for international assistance for the war-devastated country.

Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe issued the appeal in a message delivered to the two-day meeting to prepare for a ministerial conference scheduled to be held in June to discuss rehabilitation and reconstruction of Cambodia.

Watanabe told the participants that rehabilitation and reconstruction " are not merely desirable, but are absolutely essential if the Cambodian peace agreements reached last year in Paris are to be implemented at all."

He said the international community must give " unstinted support and assistance" to the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC), which he called " an undertaking of unprecedented magnitude and importance in history."

UNTAC is entrusted with the tasks of repatriating refugees, disarming and demobilizing the warring Cambodian parties, and preparing for free elections.

Watanabe said the international community must demonstrate to the warring parties that it " stands ready to help them resolve their conflict and to cooperate with them to create an environment which will enable them to enjoy prosperity in peace again."

Among those attending the preparatory meeting are representatives from the 19 countries that participated in the Paris International Conference on Cambodia.

There are also representatives from 13 other major donor countries not among those represented in Paris, as well as from eight international organizations.

Cambodian delegation leader Keo Puth Reasmey outlined a number of " top priorities" he said should be concurrently developed in the areas of rural development, infrastructures, environment, and utilization of demobilized forces.

In the area of rural development, he called for the building of irrigation systems which allow farmers access to water for both wet and dry season crops, encouragement of use of natural fertilizers, and improvements in crop cultivation techniques.

Reasmey said roads, railways, and bridges must be " immediately" repaired to cope with the resettlement of refugees, internally displaced persons, and demobilized soldiers.

He also called for infrastructure restorations designed to expand social and economic activities and to allow effective operation of development aid programs in such fields as agriculture, energy, education, and health.

In the area of environmental protection, Reasmey read a special reforestation assistance plea from Prince Norodom Sihanouk, president of Cambodia's transitional Supreme National Council (SNC).

In his plea, Sihanouk said that reforestation of regions in Cambodia that have been logged and cleared is an " absolute necessity" before Cambodia can ensure that the Cambodian people will have decent living conditions " without starvation."

Reasmey proposed that 70 percent of all soldiers be given on-the-job training as forestry guards, temple guards, and in other sectors that have labor shortages. He said the same treatment should be given to returnee-refugees.

At the ministerial conference in June, various countries and international organizations are expected to reveal their assessments of Cambodia's development needs and make commitments to providing financial assistance.

The conference will also consider the establishment of a mechanism by which the international community could coordinate its assistance efforts.

UN To Make Appeal for Cambodian Aid in Apr

OW3003123492 Tokyo KYODO in English 1212 GMT 30 Mar 92

[Text] Tokyo, March 30 KYODO—United Nations Secretary General Butrus Butrus Ghali will appeal to the international community in mid-April for hundreds of millions of dollars for Cambodian rehabilitation assistance, U.N. officials were quoted as saying here Monday at a meeting on aid to Cambodia.

Foreign Ministry officials said representatives of the U.N. Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) made the remarks during the first day of a two-day preparatory meeting for a ministerial conference on the rehabilitation and reconstruction of Cambodia, scheduled for late June in Tokyo.

The U.N. has unofficially estimated Cambodia's rehabilitation needs at some 800 million dollars, but ministry sources said the figure in the formal appeal in mid-April " will perhaps be a little bit lower."

Reconstruction costs are expected to be substantially higher than rehabilitation costs.

UNTAC representatives also said at the meeting, which was attended by working-level representatives from 31 countries, the European Community, and eight international organizations, that if it is to effectively carry out its broad mandate, timely contributions of funds by donor countries are essential.

UNTAC, which has been estimated to require a budget of 1.9 billion dollars to fulfill its myriad tasks, is now functioning on a 200 million dollar " start-up" budget, to which some countries have yet to contribute their assessed share.

UNTAC is partly entrusted with the tasks of repatriating refugees, disarming and demobilizing the warring Cambodian parties, and preparing for free elections.

Foreign Ministry officials said world bank representatives urged assistance to Cambodia aimed at helping it overcome its " acute" financial difficulties, saying they are weakening the government's administrative capabilities.

Representatives of the World Bank warned that hyperinflation is bound to result from the Cambodian Government's printing of money to make up for shortages of essential funds.

Cambodia's representative Keo Puth Reasmey said that help is needed in building irrigation systems to allow farmers access to water for both wet and dry season crops.

Reasmey said roads, railways and bridges must be " immediately" repaired to cope with the resettlement of refugees, internally displaced persons, and demoblized soldiers.

He also called for infrastructure restorations designed to facilitate an expansion of social and economic activities and to allow effective operation of development aid programs in such fields as agriculture, energy, education, and health.

Reasmey read out to the conference a special plea for afforestation assistance from Prince Norodom Sihanouk, president of Cambodia's transitional Supreme National Council (SNC).

Sihanouk called the " urgent afforestation" of areas of Cambodia that have been logged and cleared an " absolute necessity" in ensuring the Cambodian people " a non-miserable living condition without starvation."

Miyazawa Retracts Remark on Cambodian Refugees

OW3003134492 Tokyo KYODO in English 1240 GMT 30 Mar 92

[Text] Tokyo, March 30 KYODO—Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa said Monday that refugees from Cambodia are wealthier than those Cambodians who had to remain in the country, but later retracted his remark.

Miyazawa made the remark to reporters at the Diet when asked to comment on the repatriation of Cambodian refugees from camps in Thailand, which started Monday.

He said those who were able to flee the country were more fortunate and that "in that sense, the refugees are wealthier."

Later at his official residence, the prime minister angrily denied using the word "wealthy," but retracted his remark after consulting with his secretaries on the issue.

"There are people who were dragged into the ravages of war because they were unable to get out of the country," he said. " I meant to say that those who fled are unfortunate but those who were not able to flee are also unfortunate. The word 'wealthy' was not proper. I retract it."

The United Nations started a nine-month repatriation program Monday to bring more than 380,000 Cambodian refugees from Thai camps to Cambodia despite security concerns relating to a fresh outbreak of fighting.

The repatriation marked the first time that Cambodian refugees have crossed the border back into their home country, where more than one million Cambodians are believed to have died during the 13-year civil war and the regime of the leftist Khmer Rouge.

Argentine Minister Requests Japanese Investment

OW3003142392 Tokyo KYODO in English 1304 GMT 30 Mar 92

[Text] Tokyo, March 30 KYODO—Domingo Cavallo, Argentine minister of economy, public works and services, on Monday called on Japanese corporations to boost investment in his country, stressing its safety amid increasing crimes targeted at Japanese businessmen in Latin America.

Cavallo told the press he visited the Federation of Economic Organizations (Keidanren) and major banks the same day to ask for new loans to promote the country's financial reforms and privatization of state-run corporations.

He said he also requested understanding and cooperation by Japanese creditor banks concerning Argentina's repayment of its debt to Japan totaling 7.5 billion dollars at the end of last year.

Cavallo became the economic minister in January 1991, and has successfully coped with inflation, while conducting substantial liberalization of the Argentine economy.

SDP Chairman Rules Out Simultaneous Elections

OW2803121792 Tokyo KYODO in English 1159 GMT 28 Mar 92

[Text] Ota, Gunma Pref., March 28 KYODO—Chairman Makoto Tanabe of the No. 1 opposition Social

Democratic Party on Saturday ruled out the possibility of holding simultaneous elections for both Diet houses this summer.

Tanabe told a news conference that there is little possibility of simultaneous elections taking place under Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa's leadership considering his low popularity ratings and weak power base.

Half the 252 seats in the House of Councillors will be up for reelection July 26.

Tanabe called for a summit meeting attended by leaders of both ruling and opposition parties to discuss political reforms, saying political corruption has reached an intolerable level.

He said he will send an open letter to Miyazawa if the prime minister refuses to respond to his call for the summit.

Akira Yamagishi, chairman of Japan's largest labor union Rengo (Japan Trade Union Confederation), told the same news conference that he took a recent remark by Shin Kanemaru, vice president of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party, to mean that there is little possibility of simultaneous elections.

Kanemaru said Thursday that redistribution of House of Representatives seats be put off until the next session of the Diet.

The remark, made at a Tokyo meeting of an LDP faction led by former Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita, sent a ripple through the political world.

Tanabe and Yamagishi were in Ota to support SDP candidate Toshie Sunaga running in Sunday's House of Representatives by-election in Gunma's No. 2 constituency.

LDP Unofficially Leading in Gunma By-Election

OW2903120392 Tokyo KYODO in English 1150 GMT 29 Mar 92

[Text] Maebashi, March 29 KYODO—Liberal Democratic Party candidates seized both seats contested in Sunday's by-election for the House of Representatives in Gunma Prefecture, unofficial returns showed.

The LDP's Yoshio Yatsu and Toshijiro Nakajima are assured of election to the powerful lower chamber, beating opposition candidates Toshie Sunaga and Keiji Kosuge.

Miyazawa Gives 'Heartfelt' Thanks

OW2903135692 Tokyo KYODO in English 1342 GMT 29 Mar 92

[Text] Tokyo, March 29 KYODO—Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa and his governing Liberal Democratic Party, bouncing back from humiliating electoral defeats earlier this year, posted victories in Sunday's by-election for the House of Representatives in Gunma Prefecture.

LDP candidates swept the two seats at stake, beating candidates fielded by the main opposition party, the Social Democratic Party, and the No. 3 opposition party, the Japanese Communist Party.

Miyazawa said in a statement that he was "offering heartfelt thanks to voters for the LDP's victory," which he said was a major encouragement for the ruling conservative party.

The prime minister said he is "tackling such key themes as political reform, economic management, an affluent society, and Japan' international contributions."

In Sunday's by-election, the LDP's Yoshio Yatsu and Yojiro Nakajima beat Toshie Sunaga of the SDP and Keiji Kosuge of the JCP to seize the seats vacated by the deaths of Nakajima's father and Sunaga's husband.

With all the votes counted, Yatsu had collected 106,600 and Nakajima 89,066, compared with 66,432 for Sunaga and 7,615 for Kosuge, the Election Administration Commission said.

Rain and cold weather apparently reduced voter turnout to 67.03 percent, compared with 81.65 percent in the 1989 general election, commission officials said.

It was the third Diet electoral test for Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa, who assumed power last November, and his first victory.

The result boosted the LDP's strength in the 512-seat House of Representatives to 279, dwarfing the SDP's 137 seats, the No. 2 opposition party Komeito's 46, the JCP's 16, the Democratic Socialist Party's 13 and the five held by the minor opposition group Shinminren. There are six independents and 10 vacancies in the powerful lower chamber.

The election dealt a blow to SDP Chairman Makoto Tanabe whose home base is Gunma Prefecture, political sources said.

SDP Secretary General Sadao Yamahana, confirming his party's loss, blamed it on former SDP Diet member Ryoichi Yasutsune.

Yasutsune, now an independent member of the House of Councillors, was ousted from the party on March 17 for his links to the scandal- ridden Sagawa Kyubin Group of trucking firms. Two former executive officials of Tokyo Sagawa Kyubin Co. have been indicted on aggravated breach of trust charges for extending a huge amount of loans and loan guarantees.

The election result "reflected voters' criticism against the SDP which must not be involved in any scandal," Yamahana said.

LDP Vice President Shin Kanemaru, who was instrumental in pushing Miyazawa to power last year, said the result was "very meaningful for the future of Japan."

"The LDP could score the victory not because the ruling party was good but because the SDP was too bad," said Kanemaru who is regarded as one of the most powerful conservative politicians.

Kanemaru promised to continue strongly supporting Miyazawa to stay on, saying he "will never leave ship."

LDP candidates were defeated in two earlier by-elections for the House of Councillors—first in Nara Prefecture on February 9 and then in Miyagi Prefecture on March 8.

The Gunma by-election was called because of the deaths of lower house members Toru Sunaga of the SDP and Gentaro Nakajima of the LDP.

One of Sunday's winners, Yatsu, 57, held a seat in the lower house once before. The other winner, Nakajima, 32, is the second son of the late LDP Diet member and a former reporter for Japan Broadcasting Corp. (NHK)

With 93 percent of the votes counted, Yatsu garnered 93,511 votes and Nakajima took 86,035.

Sunaga, who ran on the Social Democratic Party ticket, seized 63,239 votes, while Kosuge received 6,854 votes, election officials said.

Rain and cold weather apparently dampened voter turnout to 67.03 percent, compared with 81.65 percent in the 1989 general election, the officials said. The polls closed at 6 P.M.

It was the third Diet electoral test for Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa, who assumed power last November.

LDP candidates were defeated in two earlier by-elections for the House of Councillors—first in Nara Prefecture on February 9 and then in Miyagi Prefecture on March 8.

The result in Gunma Prefecture was a major setback for the SDP, the No. 1 opposition party, some of whose legislators were involved in recent money scandals, political sources said.

It also dealt a blow to SDP Chairman Makoto Tanabe whose home base is Gunma Prefecture, they said.

The Gunma by-election was called because of the deaths of lower house Diet members Toru Sunaga of the SDP and Gentaro Nakajima of the LDP.

One of Sunday's winners, Yoshio Yatsu, 57, held a seat in the lower house once before. The other winner, Yojiro Nakajima, 32, is the second son of the late LDP Diet member and a former reporter for Japan Broadcasting Corp. (NHK).

The unsuccessful SDP candidate Toshie Sunaga, 41, was the widow of the late SDP legislator.

Table of Seats for Parties in Legislature

OW2903125592 Tokyo KYODO in English 1227 GMT 29 Mar 92

[Text] Tokyo, March 29 KYODO—The following is a table of seats in the House of Representatives and the House of Councillors, as of March 29, 1992 after the ruling Liberal Democratic Party's victory in Sunday's House of Representatives by-election in Gunma Prefecture.

House of Representatives	Parties	House of Councillors
279	LDP	113
137	SDP	71
46	Komeito	20
13	DSP/Sports	10
5	Shinminren	—
—	Rengo Sangiin	13
—	Sangiin Club	4
6	Independents	5
10	Vacancies	2
512	Total	252

Tokyo Plans To Advance Public Works Projects

OW2703 33392 Tokyo KYODO in English 1238 GMT 27 Mar 92

[Text] Tokyo, March 27 KYODO—Government officials agreed Friday on a plan to implement 75 percent of fiscal 1992's public works projects in the first half of the fiscal year, which begins April 1.

The officials said a package of the government's economic pump-priming measures, including the front-loading of public works projects and capital investment by the electric power industry, will be presented Monday to leaders of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) for approval.

The package is expected to be officially adopted Tuesday at a meeting of cabinet ministers in charge of economic affairs.

The Finance Ministry, which had called for implementing 73 percent of the projects scheduled for the fiscal year in the first six months of the year, reached a compromise with other ministries on the question, the officials said.

The LDP, as well as the Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries Ministry and the Construction Ministry, had called for starting 75 percent of the projects early.

If the plan is approved, it will be the first time in five years that the government has front-loaded public works projects.

In past fiscal years, 67 to 68 percent of the public works projects scheduled for the year were implemented in the first half of the year.

The public works budget for fiscal 1992 totals 15 trillion yen, up 5 percent from the current year.

If 75 percent of the 1992 projects are started early, spending in the first half of the fiscal year will increase 16 percent from a year earlier, the officials said.

LDP's Mori Urges Corporation Tax Reduction

OW2803134092 Tokyo KYODO in English 1253 GMT 28 Mar 92

[Text] Sapporo, March 28 KYODO—Yoshiro Mori, chairman of the Policy Affairs Research Council of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), called Saturday for a corporate tax reduction to promote capital investment.

Speaking to the LDP's Sapporo chapter, Mori also said the government may consider drafting a supplementary budget in the autumn to prop up the sluggish Japanese economy.

He acknowledged that the emergency pump-priming measures to be announced Tuesday and a stopgap government budget for April 1-11 will serve as effective tools to slow the downward trend in the economy.

Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa's government on Friday submitted a provisional budget to the Diet because the Diet is not going to be able to pass the 72.2 trillion yen fiscal 1992 budget by the end of the current fiscal year. The fiscal year ends Tuesday.

The Bank of Japan is expected to lower the official discount rate by 0.5 percentage point to 4.0 percent a year next week.

LDP officials and business leaders, however, may call on the government to cut the corporate tax as an additional effort to stimulate the economy, observers said.

Referring to the dwindling business confidence in investment since the collapse of the "bubble economy," Mori said the government should tackle the sluggish economy by cutting corporate and other taxes, on top of drafting a supplementary budget for fiscal 1992.

Urges Stimulation of Economy

OW2803102692 Tokyo KYODO in English 0926 GMT 28 Mar 92

[Text] Sapporo, March 28 KYODO—The top policy planner of the governing Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) proposed Saturday that the government cut corporate taxes to stimulate investment to bolster the faltering Japanese economy.

Yoshiro Mori, chairman of the LDP's Policy Affairs Research Council, said at an economic seminar in Sapporo that a corporate tax cut would help ease concern over the future of the domestic economy.

Mori did not elaborate on the tax proposal.

A package of the government's pump-priming measures, coupled with the enactment of the fiscal 1992 budget, will help stimulate economic activity, Mori said.

The cabinet of Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa is expected to announce the economic package Tuesday while the Diet is due to enact the 72.2 trillion yen budget by April 11.

Mori said, however, that a supplementary budget may be necessary in the fall as an additional step to overcome the economic slowdown.

He discounted the possibility of simultaneous elections for both houses of the Diet this summer, saying "the present situation does not warrant elections (of both houses) at the same time."

Mori said that Prime Minister Miyazawa may call simultaneous elections if he comes under pressure from within the ruling party to oust him, depending on the prospect for the outcome of the House of Councillors election in July.

Foreign Ministry Official Demands Rate Cut

OW3003134892 Tokyo KYODO in English 1242 GMT 30 Mar 92

[Text] Tokyo, March 30 KYODO—A senior Foreign Ministry official on Monday demanded that the Bank of Japan cut its official discount rate by a substantial margin to back up the government's pump-priming measures to be adopted Tuesday.

" A marginal cut will depress stock prices," said the official, implicitly expressing hope that there would be a discount rate reduction of at least 0.75 percentage point.

The official, who declined to be named, also said the central bank should inject more funds into the financial market, saying the current money supply level is " too low."

His comment was taken as a veiled criticism of the monetary policy stance of the Bank of Japan as the central bank has apparently guided short-term money rates upward.

On an international front, the official said Japan would not balk at an international effort to establish a fund to stabilize the value of the ruble, the official currency of the former Soviet Union.

Lower House Approves Provisional, Stopgap Budget

OW3003103892 Tokyo KYODO in English 0832 GMT 30 Mar 92

[Text] Tokyo, March 30 KYODO—The House of Representatives on Monday approved a 5.52 trillion yen provisional budget covering the first 11 days of fiscal 1992, which begins Wednesday.

The stopgap budget, approved by the ruling and all opposition parties excluding the Japanese Communist

Party, is expected to be enacted after being passed by the House of Councillors on Tuesday.

The government was compelled to compile the provisional budget for the sixth consecutive year because of a delay in Diet deliberations on the 72.2 trillion yen fiscal 1992 budget.

The Diet schedule for budgetary discussions is being delayed due mainly to the opposition's questioning over scandals.

The provisional budget does not contain any expenditures for new policy measures.

The full fiscal 1992 budget cleared the powerful lower house earlier this month but is still pending at the upper house.

Keidanren Group Chooses Five New Vice Chairmen

OW2703134492 Tokyo KYODO in English 1317 GMT 27 Mar 92

[Text] Tokyo, March 27 KYODO—The Federation of Economic Organizations (Keidanren) on Friday picked five new vice chairmen of the influential Japanese business group, federation officials said.

Tentatively chosen were Yutaka Kume, president of Nissan Motor Co.; Tadahiro Sekimoto, president of NEC Corp.; Isao Yonekura, chairman of C. Itoh and Co.; Seiji Suzuki, chairman of Mitsubishi Kasei Corp.; and Katsushige Mita, chairman of Hitachi Ltd.

Their appointments will be formalized at Keidanren's annual general meeting in late May.

Present four vice chairmen are due to resign their posts in May after having served three consecutive two-year terms.

The four are Toshikuni Yahiro, adviser for Mitsui and Co., Takeshi Hijikata, chairman of Sumitomo Chemical Co., Shoichi Saba, an adviser for Toshiba Corp., and Akio Morita, chairman of Sony Corp.

The seven other vice chairmen, including Ryoichi Kawai, chairman of Komatsu Ltd., will stay on.

Two of the outgoing vice chairmen, Morita and Saba, however, will become vice chairmen of Keidanren's Board of Councillors so that they can continue their overseas activities as the federation's foreign relations officers.

Kume, a newly picked vice chairman, along with Shoichiro Toyoda, an incumbent Keidanren vice chairman, will be in charge of handling auto trade friction.

Sekimoto will represent the electric machinery industry and Suzuki the petrochemical industry.

North Korea

KCNA Reports Second Joint Subcommittee Talks

SK2703152692 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1510 GMT 27 Mar 92

[Text] Panmunjom March 27 (KCNA)—The second meeting of the Political Subcommittee of the North-South high-level talks was held behind closed doors at the Tongil House in the North side's portion of Panmunjom today.

After the meeting, Paek Nam-chun, chairman of the North side, gave a news briefing.

He recalled that at the first meeting, the North side had put forward a draft of the annexed agreement, a draft of the agreement on the formation and operation of the North-South joint political committee and a draft of the agreement on the installation and operation of the inter-Korean liaison office at Panmunjom.

He referred to the points the North side took into account in the drafting and discussion of the annexed agreement.

He said they are, firstly, that one annexed agreement should be worked out in conformity with the inter-Korean agreement, secondly, that the draft of the annexed agreement should be discussed first, and, thirdly, that an executive organ on reconciliation should be set up.

The draft of the annexed agreement submitted by the North side was worked out reasonably in form and content, he said, and urged the South side to live up to the expectation of the people at home and abroad for the reunification of the country and national reconciliation in the operation of the subcommittee meeting.

But, the South side took an insincere attitude in the discussion. Although it vowed to be true to the July 4 joint statement and observe the principle of independence, it argued absurdly that this principle is not applicable to the U.S. forces in South Korea because they are "a deterrent to war." It also contended ridiculously that it is hard to observe the principle of great national unity under the present situation because this principle presupposes democracy.

The North side, with well-reasoned argument, called the South side to account for deliberately resorting to delaying tactics, reversing the points agreed upon between the North and the South. The North side urged the South side to bring a draft of the annexed agreement which would serve as the basis of the discussion at the third meeting.

It was agreed to hold the third meeting on April 23.

DLP Defeat in ROK Election Examined

SK2703163992 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1150 GMT 27 Mar 92

[Commentary by station commentator Kim Kyong-pok: "The Democratic Liberal Party Has Become a House in Mourning"]

[Text] In the wake of the election of lawmakers for the 14th National Assembly in South Korea, the Democratic Liberal Party [DLP] bears a close resemblance to a house in mourning.

In what is called a public statement on the outcome of the general elections, the DLP's Secretary General Kim Yun-hwan, who was in charge of the election campaign headquarters, frankly admitted that the DLP had watched the vote counting with disappointment and shock. He is reported to have officially tendered a letter of resignation. Even Kim Chong-pil, DLP co-chairman, submitted his letter of resignation from his party post because of the election results.

In addition, voices are growing within the DLP demanding that responsibility be affixed for the humiliating defeat in the elections. Amid this, the DLP is making a fuss, calling for meetings to bring the situation following the elections under control.

According to South Korean broadcasts on 26 March, the person in highest authority in South Korea is expected to effect a personnel reshuffle within the party and the administration early next week at the earliest. The executive chairman, those occupying the DLP's top three posts—vice minister of economic planning, director of the Agency for the National Security Planning, and ministers in charge of election campaigns in the administration—and senior secretaries to the president in Chongwadae will be the ones to be considered in the personnel reshuffle.

There are reasons why the DLP wears a tearful face and has kicked up such a commotion. The DLP has failed to win even a slim majority, which is the lowest number of seats it had projected to win, in the just-concluded general elections, let alone enough seats to give itself a comfortable majority.

The DLP, which in the past was accustomed to wielding tyranny with its absolute majority of seats at the National Assembly, has lost about 60 seats at one stroke and found itself inferior in numbers. This is the hardest blow and greatest humiliating defeat that it has ever suffered.

Regarding this, even the Japanese evening paper, ASAHI SHIMBUN, reported on 25 March that because of the ruling party DLP's defeat and because of the victory won by the such opposition parties as the Democratic Party [DP] and the Unification National Party in the South Korean general elections, creating once again the political situation of the opposition parties combined winning more seats than the ruling party, the same situation as the 1988 general elections has been revived. Also, the newspaper said that the No Tae-u regime had lost a rallying point and found itself facing a situation where the prospect for the next presidential election is very unpredictable.

What must be referred to without fail is that the DLP was not able to avoid such a humiliating loss in the general elections even after all manner of dishonest and fraudulent dealings.

As has already been revealed, the DLP fully abused the party and government authority and lavished money in a bid to have many more of its candidates elected. However, not satisfied with this, it went so far as to commit, without hesitation, such an utterly preposterous dishonest dealing as trying to enlist cooperation from the military services to have their absentee votes cast in its favor.

The DP, the opposition party, vowed to file lawsuits to have the election of candidates in seven electoral districts, including Seoul's Nowon District, nullified where its own candidates had been defeated by the margin of 1,000 votes.

If the general elections had been held fairly, without dishonest dealings, the DLP would have won far fewer votes than it did. The humiliating defeat it suffered in the just-concluded elections is a corollary to the treacherous acts that it has devoted itself to committing.

It is quite natural for the DLP, which, after coming into being on the strength of a marriage of convenience among the three parties engineered behind the scenes in defiance of public opinion, has done nothing but conduct fascist security-oriented rule, treacherous antinational, unpatriotic acts, antipopular economic policy, and corrupt and irregular acts while committing all manner of tyranny, with its members engrossed only in a struggle to grab power and its administration to have been rejected by the people.

It is by no means accidental that even the press in the United States and Japan analyzed the DLP's defeat as an expression of the people's strong distrust of the government, as well as the people's sense of insecurity about the DLP regime erupting all at once.

The outcome of the just-concluded elections will inevitably increase the political uneasiness and chaos in South Korea. The opposition parties' offensive against the ruling party will intensify. The DLP, which can no longer enjoy the runaway tyranny it had enjoyed in full, will have no choice but to be on the defensive.

Moreover, with Kim Yong-sam, who has perked up his shoulders as if chosen as the DLP candidate for the presidency, receiving a severe setback, the scramble for power is expected to become fiercer.

The problem comes from the fact that the DLP and its administration are not trying to draw a lesson from the humiliating defeat suffered in the general elections, which is an expression of the people's rejection of them.

While babbling that they will humbly heed the public opinion expressed in the general elections results, the DLP and its administration are bent on bringing under control the aftereffects caused by the humiliating defeat and realizing their wild ambition for staying in power at all costs.

As part of such maneuvers, the DLP is now trying to secure more seats to make it a majority party by persuading the elected independent lawmakers to join the party.

With no tricks can the DLP reverse the position it finds itself in and in which it is forsaken by the people.

Following its humiliating defeat in the just-concluded elections, the DLP no longer has any justification to cling to power. If it is willing to respect public opinion and if it does not want to avoid tasting any more bitterness, it should step down from power, as a matter of course.

Paper Urges South To End Anticommunist Policies

SK2903091392 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0822 GMT 29 Mar 92

["Anti-Communist Fascistisation Policy Is Incompatible With National Reconciliation"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang March 29 (KCNA)—If the South Korean authorities continue seeking confrontation, captive to the foolish dream of "unification by prevailing over communism" and "annexation through absorption", they will invite bitterer hatred of the entire nation and will be forsaken by history and people and meet destruction, warns NODONG SINMUN in a signed article today.

The article says:

What is urgently required at present for peace of the country and its reunification is to achieve reconciliation and unity between the North and the South.

The "Agreement on Reconciliation, Nonaggression, Cooperation and Exchange Between the North and the South" set a landmark in removing the acute confrontation and promoting reconciliation and unity between the North and the South.

If the North and the South are to get reconciled and united in the spirit of the North-South agreement, it is essential to discard the deep-rooted consciousness of confrontation that fosters the rivalry for superiority between different ideologies and systems. Even after the adoption and effectuation of the North-South agreement, however, the South Korean authorities continue stifling democratic freedom and intensifying fascist suppression of the people, contending that there is no reason to remove the system of fascist confrontation under which anti-communism is made the "state policy" or to scrap the "National Security Law" [NSL] that codifies it.

The policy of anti-communist fascistisation is incompatible with national reconciliation. Reconciliation and unity lead to peace and reunification while confrontation leads to war and national ruin, the article stresses, and continues:

The South Korean authorities should not want a "change" of the other, but effect a switchover to reconciliation and unity, giving up South-North face-off, mindful that it is a question that should be solved first of all for national reunification to renounce their deep-rooted consciousness of confrontation.

They should immediately abolish the anti-communist fascist system and the "NSL", stop suppressing the South Korean people calling for independence, democracy and reunification and release at an early date the pro-reunification patriotic figures they have arrested for the mere reason that they had visited the North and had contacts with personages of the North, from the stand of national reconciliation.

U.S. Urged To Help Denuclearize Peninsula

SK2803103492 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1007 GMT 28 Mar 92

["The United States Must Adopt Measures Helpful to Denuclearisation of Korean Peninsula"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang March 28 (KCNA)—The United States must fully open to public at home and abroad the location and inventory of its nuclear weapons and the position of its nuclear bases in South Korea till everyone comprehends the matter, withdraw all of them from South Korea and respond to a comprehensive inspection as demanded by us. This is what the United States should do to denuclearise the Korean peninsula and remove the danger of a nuclear war.

NODONG SINMUN says this in a signed article today, which reads in part:

The United States is now raising a hue and cry over fictitious "nuclear development by the North" and "nuclear threat", contending that "a tough step" should be taken. It seeks in this a sinister political and military aim.

Recently Chong Chu-yong, former honorary chairman of the South Korean Hyundai Business Group, stated that there is a nuclear arsenal in South Korea the secret project of which he undertook and oversaw.

Why are the United States and the South Korean authorities raising terrific outcries over the fictitious "nuclear threat" from the North while keeping nuclear arms in secret arsenals in South Korea? This is a mean false propaganda to lull the demand for the U.S. troops pullout from South Korea which is growing louder at home and abroad with the adoption and effectuation of the inter-Korean agreement and joint declaration on denuclearisation and justify the permanent presence of the U.S. forces in South Korea. It is also to invent a pretext to conceal the danger of the U.S. nuclear weapons deployed in South Korea and continue the nuclear war manoeuvrings stepped up in Asia with the Korean peninsula as the base.

With no false propaganda, however, can the United States justify its policy of occupation of South Korea and its scheme to turn it into a nuclear base.

The United States must not kick up a row over "threat of nuclear development" by us who have nothing to do with it, but fulfill its obligation for the denuclearisation of the Korean peninsula.

Envoy to UN Warns of Japanese Nuclear Buildup

SK2803045792 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0425 GMT 28 Mar 92

[Text] Pyongyang March 28 (KCNA)—Yi Chol, permanent representative of the DPRK at the United Nations office in Geneva, made a speech at a conference on disarmament held in Geneva on March 24.

Referring to the inter-Korean and DPRK-U.S. relations, he said that as the independent foreign policy and principled stand of the DPRK are right, South Korea accepted the DPRK's assertion and the United States said it would withdraw nuclear weapons from South Korea.

He said that the United States and South Korea should broaden the scope of dialogue and negotiations to create reconciliation and build confidence which have already begun and the South Korean authorities should discharge their obligation for sincere implementation of the North-South agreement.

Elaborating on the two points concerning the nuclear problem, he went on:

The first one is that doubt on us should be removed.

The process of the implementation of the nuclear safeguards accord (NSA) is smoothly progressing according to right procedures in a right direction. Despite the fact that things are going well some officials of a few countries contend that pressure should be put upon the North, spreading a new rumour that the DPRK "might complete the development of nuclear weapons" in two or three months. This is unreasonable both in theory and practice in view of the fact that international inspection according to the NSA and verification through mutual inspection according to the declaration on denuclearisation between the North and the South will be done in the near future.

The DPRK Government stated several times that it has neither will nor capacity to develop nuclear weapons. It is not fair that words of a big country should be considered right and words of a small country be ignored and doubted. It is inconceivable that we refrain from doing what we should do because of the pressure from outside or that we are forced to do what we must not do.

The second one is that it is important for the countries surrounding the Korean peninsula to encourage and support denuclearisation.

Japan is taking the lead in fomenting distrust in us even now that when the process of nuclear inspection has been shortened and is smoothly progressing.

The Japanese Government authorities said that "Japan's nuclear armament assumes practicability due to the nuclear development by North Korea or nuclear armament of the Korean peninsula itself". This suggests their interest in nuclear armament and conditions for its realization.

Japan knows better than anybody else that our country has no capacity to develop nuke and Japan also knows that with its technology it is able to produce nuclear weapons overnight if it intends.

The entire Korean people and the Asian people remember the past history. If Japan tries to have nuclear weapons as a means of becoming a military and political power, it will meet with strong resistance.

Political Bureau Alternate Hyon Mu-kwang Dies

SK2803091692 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0800 GMT 28 Mar 92

[Text] Comrade Hyon Mu-kwang, alternate member of the Political Bureau of the Workers Party of Korea [WPK] Central Committee and chairman of the party Central Auditing Committee, sorrowfully passed away at 0620 on the morning of 28 March 1992 at the age of 76, after suffering a protracted illness.

Comrade Hyon Mu-kwang, who was born to a worker's family and forced to live a painful and hard worker's life during the colonial rule of Japanese imperialism, grew up in the bosom of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song following national liberation to become a an able functionary from the working class. He devoted himself to the struggle for the nation's economic construction and for strengthening and developing our party.

Comrade Hyon energetically worked for the nation's industrial development and for the victory in war at important units in the heavy industrial sector, including the machinery industry, during the period of building a new fatherland and during the Fatherland Liberation War.

In fulfilling his duty at important posts of the local and central party and administrative institutions in the postwar period, Comrade Hyon put up a resolute struggle to implement our party's lines and policies for the socialist revolution and socialist construction, making great contribution to developing the nation's key industries and establishing the national economy of self-reliance.

When the cause of imbuing society with the chuche idea was regarded as the most important task to be fulfilled, Comrade Hyon, while working in responsible party and state posts, actively struggled to strengthen the single-minded unity of the leader [suryong], the party, and the masses in all aspects by rallying party members and working people firmly around the party and the leader and to completely guarantee the party leadership over economic construction.

Until the last moment of his life, Comrade Hyon Mu-kwang firmly established the party's unitary ideological system, remained boundlessly loyal to the party and leader, and devoted himself to the struggle for making the fatherland wealthy and having it developed, for the people's happiness, and for the victory of the chuche revolutionary cause under the leadership of the party.

Although the comrade has passed away, his services performed before the party and revolution, the fatherland and people, will remain with us forever.

28 March 1992

The WPK Central Committee

The Central People's Committee of the DPRK

The State Administration Council of the DPRK

Kim Il-song Sends Wreath

SK3003052092 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0438 GMT 30 Mar 92

[Text] Pyongyang March 30 (KCNA)—The great leader President Kim Il-song Sunday sent a wreath to the bier of Hyon Mu-kwang, alternate member of the Political Bureau and chairman of the Control Committee of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, expressing deep condolences on his death.

South Korea

No Replaces Cabinet Members, Secretaries

SK3003065592 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean 0600 GMT 30 Mar 92

[Text] President No Tae-u reshuffled some government officials at 1500 in order to settle the aftermath of the general elections at an early date and to stimulate national administration.

Calling on So Tong-kwon, director of the Agency for National Security Planning [NSP], to account for illegal distribution of printed materials by some NSP members during the general elections, President No Tae-u replaced him with Yi Sang-yon, minister of home affairs.

President No Tae-u appointed Yi Tong-ho, governor of North Chungchong Province, as the new home minister. President No Tae-u did not replace major economic ministers at this time but did replace Cho Kyong-sik, minister of agriculture and fisheries, with Kang Hyon-uk, former vice minister of the Economic Planning Board. President No Tae-u also appointed No Kon-il, senior presidential secretary for administrative affairs, as minister of transportation.

In addition to the partial cabinet reshuffle, President No Tae-u also replaced some presidential secretaries. He appointed Yi Chin-sol, former minister of construction, as senior presidential secretary for economic affairs, and Sim Tae-pyong, administrative coordinator in the prime minister's office, as senior presidential secretary for administrative affairs.

President No Tae-u appointed Yim In-kyu, the 13th-term DLP National Assemblyman, as presidential assistant for policy research at Chongwadae.

Kim Hak-chun, a Chongwadae spokesman, revealed that President No Tae-u made this decision this afternoon based on Prime Minister Chong Won-sik's recommendation on revamping the cabinet.

DLP, Opposition Reactions

SK3003095392 Seoul YONHAP in English 0847 GMT 30 Mar 92

[Text] Seoul, March 30 (YONHAP)—The ruling Democratic Liberal Party [DLP] welcomed President No Tae-u's partial reshuffle of his cabinet Saturday as a timely measure aimed at refreshing the post-election atmosphere, while the opposition called it "a stopgap measure" that neglected public ardor for renovation.

"We think the reshuffle was timely and aimed at renovating the post-general election atmosphere and rejuvenating the activities of the administration. The No. 1 task of the newly-formed cabinet is to rapidly stabilize the general climate and restore the nation's economy," DLP spokesman Pak Hui-tae said.

Democratic Party vice spokesman Pak U-sup said: "The reshuffle is a stopgap measure that ignores public ardor for renovation of state administration and judgment against the errors of the government and the ruling party.

"The reshuffle proved that the incumbent government has no will to uproot unfair electioneering practices, with the defense minister retained and the home minister, who should have taken responsibility for abusing government authority in the elections, named to head the Agency for National Security Planning," he said.

Yi Chun-ku Appointed DLP Secretary General

SK2803024692 Seoul YONHAP in English 0215 GMT 28 Mar 92

[Text] Seoul, March 28 (YONHAP)—The Ruling Democratic Liberal Party (DLP) will appoint Rep. Yi Chun-ku as its secretary- general and Rep. Kim Yong-tae as chief policymaker, party sources said saturday.

Floor leader Yi Cha-hon will be retained, however.

President No Tae-u and Executive Chairman Kim Yong-sam agreed to replace some key party functionaries including Secretary-general Kim Yun-hwan, who was in charge of the operations of the March 24 elections, the sources said.

Yi Chun-ku, 57, a 1958 graduate of the Korea Military Academy, is a fourth-term lawmaker.

President No-Kim Yong-sam Meeting Detailed

SK2903144892 Seoul CHOSON ILBO in Korean 28 Mar 92 p 2

[Article by Yi Yon-hong]

[Text] The dispute within the Democratic Liberal Party [DLP] triggered by the defeat in the general elections seemed to be brought under control because of the 27 March meeting between President No Tae-u and Executive Chairman Kim Yong-sam.

If the direction and ways to overcome the DLP internal dispute are what Son Chu-hwan, presidential secretary for political affairs, announced, then it seems that the meeting ended with the widespread acceptance of Executive Chairman Kim's opinions. Because of this, the meeting between President No and Executive Chairman Kim is attracting extraordinary attention.

In an interview with a local paper during the general elections campaigning, President No created a stir over when to hold the national convention by hinting that it will be held "after May." However, it was decided that the national convention will be "held in May," as was always insisted by Executive Chairman Kim. During the meeting, President No said to Executive Chairman Kim: "From now on, I am empowering all political affairs to you." When asked what "empowering all political affairs to Executive Chairman Kim" meant in terms of who will accede to supreme power, a high-ranking Chongwadae official who wished to remain anonymous explained: "It means that President No will strongly support Executive Chairman Kim in the free competition to become a candidate for supreme power."

After the meeting, Executive Chairman Kim himself said: "All problems were solved satisfactorily."

If this is the case, it is clear that Executive Chairman Kim's future is the royal road to success.

However, many observers from political circles do not have the same opinion. They pointed out that even though Executive Kim repeatedly stressed that "a reshuffle of the party's hierarchy including the three main leaders must not be carried out," the "replacement of the secretary general on 28 March" was the result of someone taking responsibility for the failure in the general elections.

They also pointed out that the replacement of Secretary General Kim Yun-hwan is the same as breaking Executive Chairman Kim's "arm," because he assisted Executive Chairman Kim to the point of becoming an immobile target for other factions. A clear explanation of this matter will become possible when it is decided who will become the new secretary general and when the detailed content and process of dialogue between President No and Executive Chairman Kim to replace the secretary general is revealed.

Observers are also attaching a "tag" to President No's promise that he will empower all political affairs to Executive Chairman Kim.

They say that it seems that this recent remark is not much different from a series of statements made by President No in the past.

During the 10 January New Year's news conference, President No said: "I will entrust politics to the political authorities and I will concentrate on working on the reunification issue."

While saying so he ordered Executive Chairman Kim to become "the center of the party." The next day, while chairing the Chongwadae executive committee meeting, he stated: "Transcending factions, Executive Chairman Kim will be the center of the party and lead the party." He called the executive chairman "the center of the party." While making a speech on the second anniversary of the founding of the DLP on 8 February, President No said: "On my behalf, Executive Chairman Kim will lead the party."

However, what is noteworthy is the behavior of some members of the Democratic Justice Party [DJP] faction and the New Democratic Republic Party faction, regardless of President No's remarks. Co-Chairman Pak Tae-chun, who is leading the DJP faction, has already started various preparations for the nomination competition.

In spite of the president's direction that general elections should be conducted under Executive Chairman Kim's responsibility, Co-Chairman Pak denounced Executive Chairman Kim during the election campaigns.

Co-Chairman Kim Chong-pil behaved in a similar way.

Anti-Kim Yong-sam forces still have power, and their activities have become markedly brisk. We have not yet seen President No make any particular effort to check this.

Furthermore, to a great extent, there have been disparities between President No's remarks and his actual practices.

We cannot help watching the development of the practical situation, which may verify President No's remarks.

For example, the following is what we should watch: Will the newly appointed secretary general act to strengthen the ties between President No and Executive Chairman Kim? How will Executive Chairman Kim act to prepare for the national convention? In addition, the greatest concern is how President No will act in the course of the nomination competition.

It is not certain that the meeting really "settled" the intra-party feud. Co-Chairman Kim Chong-pil said that he would not attend the chairmen's meeting slated for 28 March, which had been decided at the No-Kim meeting.

Co-Chairman Kim Chong-pil also said: I don't know whether I will participate in the luncheon meeting between President No and the three chairmen, which is slated for 28 March.

Co-Chairman Pak Tae-chun's side also showed that it is high time to begin acting on its own. At any rate, we cannot help watching how the anti-Kim Yong-sam group's "objection" will be met at the 28 March luncheon meeting.

On the other hand, Co-Chairman Pak has long prepared for competition with Kim Yong-sam. In particular, the national convention, which will be held in May, will be a battlefield in which the "presidential candidate" who will become "president of the party" will be decided at the same time. Such being the case, we cannot know whether or not the anti-Kim Yong-sam group will obediently follow the president's remarks, just because it was told that "Kim Yong-sam will be entirely in charge of the party affairs."

Some even wonder if the national convention, which will be held in May, is precisely a strategy to "hang Executive Chairman Kim on a tree to bring him to an early end."

However, judging from the meeting itself between President No and Kim Yong-sam on 27 March, it can be said that Kim Yong-sam's position has been further strengthened. This is because, in spite of the setback in the general elections, Executive Chairman Kim has favorably changed the circumstances in which he could be surrounded and attacked.

No Says Convention To Choose DLP Candidate

SK2803080692 Seoul YONHAP in English
0701 GMT 28 Mar 92

[Text] Seoul, March 28 (YONHAP)—President No Tae-u said Saturday that the ruling party would nominate its presidential candidate through a free, open election at a convention in May.

No told members of the Democratic Liberal Party's Executive Council over lunch that efforts should be made to ensure that the convention was an opportunity to show the ruling party's unity to the outside world.

The convention would open a new era in the political history of the nation, he added.

The lunch meeting was attended by executive chairman Kim Yong-sam and Co-Chairman Pak Tae-chun, but Co-Chairman Kim Chong-pil was absent.

"The nomination can be contested by anyone who wants to run in the presidential elections, but he should be ready to compete in a fair and square manner," No said.

The chief executive asked the top party leaders to manage party affairs smoothly so that he could devote all his energy to reinvigorating the national economy during the remainder of his tenure in office.

Kim Yong-sam Candidacy Minimizing Election Damage

SK3003041292 Seoul YONHAP in English
0238 GMT 30 Mar 92

[Text] Seoul, March 30 (YONHAP)—Kim Yong-sam, in a swift, yet calculated move, has drawn the attention of the ruling Democratic Liberal Party (DLP) away from its crushing defeat in the general elections by announcing his candidacy for the DLP nomination for president.

Just as the party was about to be engulfed in a debilitating factional feud over who was responsible for the setback in last Tuesday's elections, the executive chairman sought and obtained a reassurance of his leadership role from President No Tae-u in a one-on-one meeting at Chongwadae on Friday.

Without wasting any time, Kim went ahead Saturday and publicly announced his intention to run for the party nomination for president, putting party affairs into high gear and minimizing the damage resulting from the election defeat.

Kim also announced that the DLP will hold a party convention in early May to select its presidential candidate in a free competition.

Kim's lightening moves caught most anti-Kim factions within the party unprepared and sent them scurrying around for strategies to counter his candidacy.

One of the DLP leaders caught off-balance was Kim Chong-pil, who had tendered his resignation as one of the DLP co-chairmen to take responsibility for the election defeat and had apparently expected the other party leaders to follow suit.

The leader of the dwindling New Democratic Republican Party faction, Kim Chong-pil also refused to attend a meeting of party leaders Saturday at the presidential residence convened by No to discuss the aftermath of the election fiasco.

The largest DLP faction, the former Democratic Justice Party, led by co-chairmen Park Tae-chun, is expected to see one of its men, Rep. Yi Chong-chan, announce his candidacy next week, while others such as lawmaker-elect Kim Pok-tong and Rep. Yi Han-tong wait in the wings ready to throw their hats into the ring.

The DLP, under the direction of Kim Yong-sam, is expected to form a preparatory committee for the national convention next week and put up a public notice for the convention. Kim also hopes to reorganize 179 district chapters in order to align them in the column of his supporters, according to party insiders.

At the moment, the former Democratic Justice Party faction still enjoys the largest number of district chapter heads with 152 of a total of 237, followed by Kim

Yong-sam's reunification Democratic Party faction, 57, and Kim Chong-pil's faction, 28.

However, Kim Yong-sam and his followers hope to break the hegemony of the Democratic Justice Party faction by using the considerable power of former DLP Secretary-general Kim Yun-hwan, who was replaced Saturday by Yi Chun-ku to take responsibility for the election failure.

In addition, kim Yong-sam is said to count on No's "perceived, behind-the-scenes support" for him, while using carrot-and-stick tactics to direct a "power surge" toward himself, some observers say.

Meanwhile, the anti-Kim factions are expected to prepare for a decisive battle at the national convention, relying on new DLP Secretary-general Yi, who is said to hold unfavorable opinion of Kim Yong-sam.

Specifically, they believe that they have a winning edge over Kim if they can put up a single candidate from all the anti-Kim factions and rally behind him in the balloting: As long as No remains absolutely neutral, as the president seems to have indicted he will do in recent days.

Determined to defeat Kim at any cost, Pak Tae-chun and other members of the Democratic Justice Party faction are expected to work on Kim Chong-pil to solicit the support of his Democratic Republican Party faction.

Nevertheless, some analysts believe the anti-Kim factions lack "a centripetal person" to rally around since, by naming him DLP secretary-general, No placed Yi Chun-ku in "a neutral corner" as regards party politics.

To sum up the situation, most analysts say the outcome of the nomination contest in the national convention in may will depend on Kim's political ability, No's behind-the-scenes influence and whether the anti-Kim factions unite their opposition in one candidate.

Anti-Kim Yong-sam Faction Prepared for 'Showdown'

SK2903055792 Seoul HANGYORE SINMUN in Korean 28 Mar 92 p 2

[Article by Chang Chong-su and Yi Chu-myong]

[Text] During the 27 March Chongwadae meeting, it was decided that the national convention would be held in May and that complete authority over party affairs would be entrusted to Executive Chairman Kim Yong-sam. In opposition to this, anti-Kim Yong-sam forces of the Democratic Justice Party [DJP] faction have taken the position that they will prepare for a showdown in the May national convention.

As soon as most of the lawmakers, who are now in their district constituencies, come to Seoul, they will hold meetings according to subclans and seek joint countermeasures to deal with this. They are also intensifying preparations for a duel in response to Executive Chairman Kim's offensive by forming a full-scale alliance.

Although senior lawmaker Yi Chong-chan is not revealing his position on the outcome of the Chongwadae meeting for the moment, on the evening of the same day he held a series of contacts with Co- chairman Pak Tae-chun and members of the new political group and sought specific ways to handle this matter. On 28 March lawmaker Pak Chol-on, who was staying in Taegu, his district constituency, came to Seoul and is expected to discuss future counterstrategy in depth with the members of the Laurel Club. At the same time, another anti-Kim Yong-sam faction interprets the outcome of the Chongwadae meeting in their favor, showing their reaction by saying that they are "rather satisfied with the outcome."

A confidant of Co-chairman Pak said: "What Executive Chairman Kim was aiming at during today's Chongwadae meeting was probably to retain Secretary General Kim Yun-hwan in office. In response to Executive Chairman Kim's demand, it seems that President No might have resolutely insisted on the replacement of Secretary General Kim, eventually carrying out his insistence." He interpreted, in his favor, that the agreement made that day was rather unfavorable for Executive Chairman Kim.

In this connection, Co-chairman Pak recently had a series of contacts with senior members of the DJP faction, including Yi Chong- chan, to get their opinions. It was learned that in this process, the DJP faction agreed: "If it is a freely contested race for the nomination, the timing of the race does not matter. We should work out the DJP faction's full-scale countermeasures and hold anti- Executive Chairman Kim's forces together." However, Secretary General Kim Yun-hwan, who is known as a pro-Kim Yong-sam faction member, has another interpretation: "I think that the decision for the May national convention means that President No has decided to support Executive Chairman Kim."

Yi Chong-chan Announces Bid for DLP Nomination

SK3003083892 Seoul YONHAP in English 0800 GMT 30 Mar 92

[Text] Seoul, March 30 (YONHAP)—Rep. Yi Chong-chan, emerging from a meeting with President No Tae-u, said Monday he would seek the ruling Democratic Liberal Party's [DLP] presidential nomination.

Yi said he had briefed No, who is head of the DLP, on his intentions and detailed matters.

Yi is the second man to join the race. DLP Executive Chairman Kim Yong-sam declared himself a candidate Saturday.

Yi, 56, in his third consecutive term as a national assemblyman, was elected March 24 to a fourth term from the Chongno constituency in the heart of Seoul. Chongwadae, the official presidential office and residence, is in the district.

No emphasized that free competition for the presidential nomination would be significant as it would carry his June 29, 1987, declaration to perfection, Yi said.

Yi quoted the president as saying that the contest, which will be decided at the DLP's national convention in May, should be conducted in a fair manner and that all of the candidates should accept the results whatever they are.

Yi said he would express his intentions to Kim and to DLP co- chairmen Kim Chong-pil and Pak Tae-chun. His aides said Yi would make a public announcement in a press conference around Thursday.

Aide Says UNP Chief To Cut Ties With Hyundai

SK3003062792 Seoul YONHAP in English
0449 GMT 30 Mar 92

[Text] Seoul, March 30 (OANA-YONHAP)—Rep. Chong Chu-yong, better known as owner of the Hyundai group and founder of the Unification National Party [UNP], will find a way to divest himself of his controlling interest in the group, an aide said Monday.

"The consensus in and out of the party is that Chong must cut ties with Hyundai and erase its image as a conglomerate's party in order for the UNP to grow," chief secretary Yi Pyong-kyu said.

"Executive Chairman Chong realizes this and is likely to formally announce that he is giving up his stockholder's rights within this week," Yi said.

The industrialist led his two-month-old party to win an unexpected 31 seats in last week's general elections, and claimed a seat for himself by proportional representation.

Chong owns 2 trillion won (2.58 billion U.S. dollars) of stock in Hyundai companies, including 22.53 million shares of Hyundai Heavy Industries Co. (53.7 percent of the total).

He will probably get official endorsement of his pledge to pass all his rights to his brother, Hyundai Group chairman Chong Se-yong, and then make a public announcement, lee said.

Chong had considered giving up the shares permanently, but is now expected to do so only while he is a member of the National Assembly due to practical difficulties, he said.

Chong had considered selling his holdings, but decided against it since it would violate various regulations and might cause confusion in the securities market, the aide said.

Hyundai officials predict, however, that the influence of the founder in business operations will continue due to the positions held by his numerous siblings and children.

No Requests Probe Into Election Law Violations

SK3003080792 Seoul YONHAP in English
0611 GMT 30 Mar 92

[Text] Seoul, March 30 (YONHAP)—President No Tae-u instructed his top aides Monday to conduct a thorough and impartial investigation into alleged violations of the election law by government officials and the military.

No's order came at a meeting of senior presidential secretaries at Chongwadae. The president was referring to allegations that a number of officials of the National Agency for Security Planning had conducted a smear campaign against an opposition candidate in Seoul during the campaign for the general elections.

Opposition political parties also took issue with the government after an Army lieutenant charged that the military had conducted "open balloting" at certain Army units in order to help ruling Democratic Liberal Party candidates.

These two issues are very much in the mind of the people, No was reported to have said, and therefore, it is the government's duty to investigate thoroughly and impartially to wipe out any trace of doubt whatsoever.

Moreover, No told his aides to check the movements of consumer prices, especially those of 20 basic commodities, in order to help control them. The president instructed economic ministers to check and see whether a 350 billion won government support fund for small- and medium-size businesses was being used effectively.

Military Plans 'To Revise' Absentee Voting System

SK2903004892 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD
in English 29 Mar 92 p 3

[Text] The Defense Ministry plans to revise the existing military absentee voting system to try to alleviate popular suspicions that it is not fair.

A ministry official said yesterday that the ministry was gathering information about problems in the current system of military absentee voting, and will soon present suggestions to improve the system.

The official, who wanted to remain anonymous, said that the military "feels the need to change the existing system," recognizing that an Army first lieutenant's recent announcement about rigging in the military absentee voting for Tuesday's parliamentary election, "whether it is true or not, has had a considerable impact."

"Basically, we hope the National Assembly will amend the election laws, but I think the Defense Ministry could present some suggestions," the official said.

He said that one of the problems with the existing system of absentee voting in the military is that "it is technically impossible for rival political parties or the Central Election Management Committee to send voting witnesses to each military voting place, as the voting is conducted at company-level units, which number about 14,000."

One of the suggestions, according to the official, is that military personnel in areas near civilian populations will cast ballots in voting places "outside of the military compound," or voting stations near the compound, along with civilian voters in the presence of voting witnesses.

As for the absentee voting in the front-line areas, military personnel should cast ballots at current voting places in the presence of voting witnesses from election management committees, civic election watch groups, or rival political parties, the official said.

Under the election laws, voting witnesses are allowed to watch the process, but it is not mandatory.

"In one way or another, the election laws could be revised in such a way as to ensure the presence of a voting witness," said the official.

Under the existing military absentee voting system, which leaves the management of the voting in the hands of the military commanders, popular suspicions of misconduct can never be overcome, the official said.

The Central Election Management Committee and opposition parties have vowed to revise the current election laws to minimize alleged corruption.

The Defense Ministry's move came amid the lingering shock of First Lt. Yi Chi-mun's "declaration of conscience," March 22, when he charged senior officers in his unit with recommending or forcing enlisted men to vote for the ruling party candidates.

Yi is under arrest by the military prosecution of the 9th Army Infantry Division on charges of being absent without leave (AWOL).

Yi's defense attorney, An Sang-un, however, submitted a letter requesting the military court's review of the legality of Yi's detention.

An said in the letter that "Yi left his unit while he was off-duty, and is not subject to criminal punishment, even though he violated the military regulations."

Meanwhile, the Citizens' Alliance for Fair Elections, a federation of over 300 civic groups, said it had received over 200 reports during the last three days about irregularities and corruption regarding military absentee voting.

Opposition parties have also formed their own special committees to investigate the charges of First Lt. Yi.

In Tuesday's parliamentary election, 47 percent of the total absentee voters cast ballots for the candidates of the ruling Democratic Liberal Party, while the ratio was slightly less than 30 percent in the local autonomy elections last June.

Over 560,000 military personnel participated in the military absentee voting for Tuesday's National Assembly election.

No, Japan's Takeshita Discuss Nuclear Issues

*SK3003114992 Seoul YONHAP in English
0638 GMT 30 Mar 92*

[Text] Seoul, March 30 (YONHAP)—President No Tae-u met with Noboru Takeshita, head of the Korea-Japan Parliamentarians Union, at the presidential office Monday.

Pointing out that North Korea was still half-hearted to outside inspection of its nuclear facilities, No stressed the need to persuade and pressure Pyongyang for the peace and safety of Japan and Northeast Asia as a whole.

The president said that Seoul-Pyongyang relations and the political climate in Southeast Asia could be influenced directly by the normalization of ties between Pyongyang and Tokyo.

He told Takeshita he hoped normalization would develop in a way that sustained stability and contributed to Korean unification.

Trade Deficit With 'Northern Countries' Widens

*SK2803042992 Seoul YONHAP in English
0115 GMT 28 Mar 92*

[Text] Seoul, March 28 (YONHAP)—South Korea's deficit in trade with China and other so-called northern countries is widening, the Trade and Industry Ministry said Saturday.

During the first two months of the year, exports to the group of northern countries expanded to 415 million U.S. dollars, up 31.7 percent from the same period last year, while imports from these countries surged 54 percent to 765 million dollars, the Ministry said.

Korea's trade deficit with those countries more than doubled to 350 million dollars during the period.

Signing of the South Korea-China trade agreement last year-end pushed up exports to China to 235 million dollars during the two- month period, 144.5 percent above the same period last year, but the expansion was overshadowed by imports amounting to 634 million dollars, up 64.2 percent.

Korea's trade deficit with China was 399 million dollars for the two months, up from 290 million dollars in January-February last year.

Imports from Eastern Europe swelled 9 million dollars to 36 million dollars, while exports to the area tumbled to 35 million dollars, one-fourth of the 137 million dollars recorded in the same period last year.

Korea enjoyed a surplus of 110 million dollars in its trade with Eastern European countries last year, but had a 1 million-dollar deficit at the end of February.

The commonwealth of independent states is the only northern partner with which South Korea has had a trade surplus so far this year. Exports increased 52.6 percent to 101 million dollars while imports grew a mere 10 percent to 86 million dollars. Korea suffered a deficit of 12 million dollars in trade with CIS last year, but registered a 15 million-dollar surplus at the end of February.

Fishing Industry Loses Peruvian Squid Quota

SK2903013192 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 29 Mar 92 p 8

[Text] The Korean deep-sea industry, which has been hit by a lingering recession, has suffered another setback as Korean fishing firms failed to obtain the right to fish for a certain quantity of squid in Peruvian waters, one of Korea's most promising squid fishing grounds.

The Korea Deep Sea Fisheries Association (KDSFA) March 20 failed in an international bid to catch 100,000 tons of fish in Peruvian waters, business sources said.

Japan succeeded in securing 40,000 tons of fish out of the total 100,000 tons. A quota of 20,000 tons went to a Korean immigrant.

A Peruvian agent of the KDSFA was initially awarded the remaining 40,000 tons, but the bid was reportedly declared "null and void" because of faulty bidding documents, business sources said.

The failure is expected to deliver a heavy blow to Korean fishing firms which now operate 31 fishing boats in Peruvian waters waiting for the high fishing season which starts in early next month, they said.

Korea, which was given a quota of 80,000 tons last year, has expected to obtain a greater share of the market as part of efforts to transfer Korean drift-net vessels operating in the North Pacific to Peruvian and other South American waters, industrial analysts say.

A total of 141 Korean vessels will have to withdraw from the fishing ground in the North Pacific because of a U.N. ban on the use of drift-nets which is to take effect from Jan. 1 next year.

The United States asked the United Nations to impose the moratorium.

A KDSFA official said he expects the Korean fishing vessels in Peru to be allowed to expand their quota of by taking some from Japan which he said has too much quota for their fishing fleet of 16 boats.

In a related development, the business slump recently claimed Samho Co., one of Korean leading deep-sea fishing firms, indicating that the deep-sea fishing industry is in trouble. The firm applied for court receivership as it was going bankrupt.

Internal and external woes facing the industry promoted a call for emergency steps from eight fisheries organizations, including the KDSFA.

The organizations demanded in a meeting with officials at the National Fisheries Administration Friday that 20 billion set aside for the fund for development of fishing ground in the government budget be immediately released to help firms facing severe difficulties. They also called for providing an additional 80 billion in the form of the fund.

The fisheries organizations urged on the NFA to take steps to help fisheries firms overcome a severe recession.

The steps they want to be taken include a plan to allow alien sailors to work on Korean vessels to cope with a shortage of labor.

Harsher Penalties Considered for Black Marketeers

SK3003114892 Seoul YONHAP in English 0835 GMT 30 Mar 92

[Text] Seoul, March 30 (YONHAP)—The government is considering harsher penalties, such as jail terms, for illegal trade in American rice taken out of the U.S. military units in South Korea, a government source said Monday.

Also being considered were regulations to subject restaurants serving the rice to administrative penalties, he said.

The measures were contained in a set of suggestions that the Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Ministry recently sent to the Office of Customs Administration, asking for new regulations on foods and sanitary facilities effective July 1, he said.

According to the ministry, 2,264 kilograms of black market "PX rice" were confiscated in 22 cases last year.

The ministry had been unable to halt the black market trade in the rice because current regulations impose only small fines, he said, so it wanted regulations that would send black marketeers to prison.

Regional Environment Consultation Group Proposed

SK3003114792 Seoul YONHAP in English 0941 GMT 30 Mar 92

[Text] Seoul, March 30 (OANA-YONHAP)—South Korea plans to propose an inter-governmental environment consultation body comprising North Korea, Japan, China, Mongolia and Russia at the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) session next month, Foreign Ministry officials said Monday.

Foreign Minister Yi Sang-ok will reveal a general outline in his keynote speech at the 48th ESCAP session opening in Beijing April 14. Working-level officials will table a detailed proposal at committee and subcommittee meetings, according to the officials.

"All other regions have inter-governmental bodies on environment cooperation. Northeast Asia is the only area without it," said a ministry official.

There is a fledgling non-governmental organization among South Korea, China, Japan and Russia for prevention of sea pollution. It met for the first time in Vladivostok last October. North Korea did not attend although it was invited.

"South Korea hopes for a formal inter-governmental network led by people in vice-ministerial positions," the official said.

"Other nations responded favorably to our planned proposal. But we do not know for certain if North Korea will join," he said.

North Korea becomes a full member of ESCAP at the Beijing session, making it possible for all participating countries to discuss the idea together during the session, he said.

Burma

Rebels Fire Rockets at Myawadi From Thai Side

BK2903143692 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 29 Mar 92

[Excerpts] The KNU [Karen National Union] terrorist insurgents have been distrupting peace and tranquility using various means with intent to cause death and injury to innocent people by firing heavy weapons into Myawadi, which injured three innocent persons and destroyed one shop and other things.

At 2050 on 27 March, a group of KNU terrorist insurgents fired four rounds with a 62mm launcher into Myawadi from near the base of (Sin Kyaung) pagoda hill from the country on the other side. [passage omitted on names of injured]

Responsible personnel were treating the three injured, innocent persons at Myawadi hospital.

Prisoners Said Forced To Work Against Karens

BK2903072292 Bangkok THE NATION in English 29 Mar 92 p A4

[Text] Pottaba, Burma—More than 7,000 Burmese prison inmates were forced to serve as porters and minesweepers in the Burmese Army's latest offensives against the armed Karen guerrillas.

At least 300 died or were killed within this month and 98 managed to escape to take refuge with the Karen.

In an interview with THE NATION over the weekend some of the escapees said more than 7,000 were taken from the seven main prisons of Insein, Bassein, Sagaing, Meiktila, Magwe, Pegu and Natogyi to work as porters and minesweepers for the Burmese military operations against Karen headquarters of Manerplaw and other border strongholds.

Only general criminals with less than a year for their term to end were forcibly recruited, they said, adding that only political prisoners and students involved in 1988 political uprisings were exempted.

Soe Thi, 29, who was serving his last two months in Insein for robbery, said he was taken early in March along with 3,500 inmates. The Burmese Army loaded them onto trucks one night and drove them for four days to the eastern border near the battlefields of Mae Ta Waw where they were joined by thousands of inmates from six other prisons.

He said over 7,000 inmates with heavy loads were employed for the operations with promises that they would be released if the Burmese Army overran the Karen headquarters of Manerplaw. Relatives of the inmates, who were mostly farmers and fishermen, were never informed of their disappearance from the prisons, he added.

The prisoners were forced to walk ahead of the fighting forces as minesweepers along mine-strewn jungle paths. On the foot journey to the frontline, at least 300 died or were killed during clashes with the Karen in Mid-March, said the 29-year-old porter.

Another escapee, Maung Mi Aung, said more than 7,000 more of his fellow prisoners are still working near Mae Ta Waw, a former Karen stronghold which had fallen to the Burmese Army.

He said he and some other friends managed to flee from there, but three were killed and two others, who were seriously wounded when they stepped on landmines, were left behind.

Maung Mi Aung said his group could not assist the wounded as they were pursued closely by the Burmese Army.

Minister, Diplomats Leave for Bangladesh Border

BK2903150392 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 29 Mar 92

[Text] A study delegation led by U Ohn Gyaw, minister for foreign affairs, left Yangon [Rangoon] by air to Sittwe [Akyab], Arakan State, at 0730 today to personally study the current situation at the Myanmar [Burma]-Bangladesh border in Arakan State in the Western Military Command Region.

The delegation was seen off at the airport by senior military officials from the Ministry of Defense, responsible personnel from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and departmental officials.

The delegation comprises U Soe Nyunt, deputy minister for information; Colonel Than Tun deputy director, Directorate of Defense Services Intelligence; Police Major General San Thein, director general of People's Police Force; U Maung Aung, director general of Immigration and Manpower Department; senior military officials from the Ministry of Defense; Mr. B. P. Makadada, ambassador of Indonesia and dean of the diplomatic corps, and ambassadors; charge d'affaires of embassies; Colonel (Valeri A. Amosov), Russian Federation defense attache and dean of the defense corps, and defense attaches; responsible personnel from the Foreign Ministry; personnel from UN agencies; local and foreign journalists and departmental officials.

Western Diplomats Boycott Guided Tour of Arakan

BK3003095692 Hong Kong AFP in English 0928 GMT 30 Mar 92

[Text] Bangkok, March 30 (AFP)—Top Western embassies boycotted a weekend trip organised by Burma's military government to take foreign diplomats on a tour of Arakan State, from which some 200,000 Moslems have fled into neighbouring Bangladesh, Rangoon sources said Monday.

A delegation, led by Foreign Minister Ohn Gyaw, left Rangoon by plane early Sunday for Arakan, in western Burma.

And although some Asian embassies sent their ambassadors, most Western nations did not, one source said, speaking anonymously.

Only chiefs of mission and defense attaches were invited to go but most embassies did not think it was suitable to send their ambassadors.

"They wanted to send someone who could assess the situation better," said a Western resident, reached by telephone from Bangkok.

One Western diplomat said: "The embassies wanted to send someone who could speak the local dialect and who could talk to residents about reports that Burmese soldiers have been persecuting Moslems in recent weeks, forcing the exodus into Bangladesh."

"There was a dispute over taking a translator," said another Western diplomat. "They wound up taking only one government translator for the whole group.

"Another problem was that they were only going to be on the ground for about three hours and the ambassadors did not think it would be worth it if the government was going to restrict their movements," the envoy said.

Among those who went were Indonesian Ambassador B.P. Makadada, the dean of the diplomatic corps, and Colonel Valeriy A. Amosov, the Russian defense attache and dean of the defense corps, Rangoon radio said. A transcript of the broadcast was seen Monday in Bangkok.

Hundreds of Politically Unreliable Said Fired

BK3003112492 Hong Kong AFP in English 1026 GMT 30 Mar 92

[Text] Bangkok, March 30 (AFP)—Burma's military government has fired hundreds of teachers and administrators who failed a four-week re-education course, and more dismissals are likely, a Western diplomat in Rangoon said Monday.

The military rulers "seem to have an unending appetite for getting rid of people who don't agree with them," said the diplomat, reached by telephone from Bangkok. "They will reduce the universities to kindergartens if they have to get people to see things their way."

He said he had reports that 160 teachers at Rangoon University, the nation's premier institute of higher education, and 50 administrators from the Health Ministry had been fired in recent days.

The junta ordered thousands of teachers and government administrators to answer a 33-item questionnaire last year to divine their feelings, then fired hundreds who gave unsatisfactory answers.

Last December, students staged more anti-government protests. The military subsequently ordered nearly 3,000 teachers and administrators to undergo "re-education" at Phaung Kyi in northern Burma.

Major General Khin Nyunt, the nation's powerful intelligence chief, opened the four-week course on January 27 and accused the teachers of failing to control their students.

The course included training in campus management, personnel management, discipline, public relations, law, and moral studies.

Sources said the teachers were forced to shave their heads, made to march like soldiers, given military indoctrination and generally treated poorly.

But the teachers "did not hide their feelings," the diplomat said. "They let their military instructors know they did not care. They went to sleep in class. They mimicked the military. They asked, 'If you are going to put us into the military, why do you not give us guns?'"

The Burmese military seized power in September 1988 and crushed a nationwide pro-democracy movement which had students at the forefront. Thousands of people were killed.

The junta closed all schools, only allowing them to reopen gradually months later, starting with the lower schools. The universities reopened last May but were quickly shut down again after December's disturbances.

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Brunei

Diplomatic Relations Established With SRV

BK2303140892 Kuala Belait THE BORNEO BULLETIN in English 2 Mar 92 p 1

[Text] Brunei has established diplomatic ties with Vietnam.

A Foreign Ministry statement said on Saturday that the Government of His Majesty the Sultan and Yang Dipertuan [Ruler] of Brunei Darussalam and the Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, in conformity with the interests and desire of the two peoples, have decided to establish diplomatic relations between the two countries at the ambassadorial level as from February 29, 1992.

Malaysia

Russian Envoy Warns PRC on 'Force' in Spratlys

BK3003050892 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0320 GMT 30 Mar 92

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, March 30 (OANA-BERNAMA)—The Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), like the United States, will oppose any use of force to settle the dispute over the Spratly Islands, said the Russian ambassador to Malaysia, Anatoliy Khmelnitskiy.

He said the issue should be resolved peacefully through diplomatic channels.

"The use of force is already outdated. Any country that uses force should be condemned," he told reporters after attending the opening of the first world congress of siddha [as received] medicine here Sunday.

Khmelnitskiy, who represents the CIS (formerly the Soviet Union) in Malaysia, was asked to comment on China's parliament last February proclaiming a new law to stake its claim to the Spratlys and two other groups of islands in the South China Sea.

The Chinese Government had also warned that it would use military means to defend its claims.

The U.S. ambassador to the Philippines, Frank Wisner, said in a television interview in Manila recently that Washington would oppose any use of force to take control of the islands.

Khmelnitskiy said China, which has claimed to be a peaceful country, should not resort to force in settling the dispute over the islands.

The Spratlys, believed to be rich in natural gas and oil, are claimed by China, Taiwan, Vietnam, Brunei, Malaysia, and the Philippines.

Malaysia has stationed security forces on three islands and atolls in the Spratlys group, while China was reported to have dispatched troops to the area.

The Philippines announced recently that it would build air and naval stations on several of the islands.

Traders Urged To Promote Products in China

BK2603092492 Kuala Lumpur Voice of Malaysia in English 0800 GMT 26 Mar 92

[Text] Malaysian Chamber of Commerce and Trade Association has been asked to take a positive role in promoting Malaysian products in the People's Republic of China.

Deputy Minister of International Trade and Industry Chua Ji Meng said that business promotion and networking with the Chinese business and Industry can increase Malaysian exports. Trade between the two countries is now in China's favor. Bilateral trade last year touched 3.96 billion ringgit.

Mr. Chua said this today when launching the promotion program for the Malaysian Industry and Technology Exposition in Kuala Lumpur. He said that China exported a total of 2.2 billion ringgit worth of products to Malaysia last year, representating a spectacular growth of 46 per cent for 1990. Last year Malaysia's export to China was worth 1.76 million ringgit, a slight increase from 1.67 billion ringgit in 1990.

Developing industry and technology exposition will be held in Beijing, China from the 6th to the 10th of May next year.

Rangers Joining UNTAC Leave for Cambodia

BK2703090992 Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 26 Mar 92 p 7

[Text] Johor Baru, Wed.—The Malaysian contingent to the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) left without fanfare from Senai airport this morning.

The 164 members of the 1st Royal Rangers based at Camp Majidee here, boarded their Hercules C-130 military transport, witnessed by their families and their Commanding Officer Lt-Col Goh Ah Bah.

The men will be spending the better part of the year away from home and will miss celebrating [Id al-Fitr] Hari Raya with their families.

The Rangers are part of the 625 Malaysians who will form part of the 22,000-strong international force under UNTAC.

The UNTAC team will monitor the disarmament of the various factions at odds in Cambodia under a UN-brokered ceasefire pending civil elections expected sometime next year.

The rest of the Rangers will leave for Cambodia from Senai on two flights a day until Saturday and will stay there for a minimum of nine months.

Lt-Col Goh said the logistics involved in transporting 625 men and 70 containers of equipment, which included 155 vehicles, to support their duties in Cambodia had been monumental but something which had been achieved successfully.

"Packing was a nightmare because we had to pack everything from pots and pans to special medical facilities. It was difficult to decide what to take along."

Commentary Lauds Generosity of Aid to Cambodia

BK2703113692 Kuala Lumpur Voice of Malaysia in English 0800 GMT 27 Mar 92

[Station commentary]

[Text] Another batch of Malaysian troops from the first Royal Rangers Regiment left two days ago to perform peacekeeping duties in Cambodia under the United Nations [word indistinct]. The remainder of the 625 members of the Malaysian contingent are departing today and tomorrow. Together they will form part of the 22,000-strong UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC). Each will be stationed there until democracy emerges in the whole, expected around March next year.

The Malaysian troops will be based in Battambang, mainly to oversee the safe passage of the Cambodian refugees from Thailand to their homeland. Malaysia is proud and happy to fulfill a responsibility to which it is not committed itself.

What has to be pointed out is that the majority of the Malaysian contingent is comprised of Muslims who will be missing their homes and families during the celebration of festival of Hari Raya Puasa [Id-al-Fitr] which falls at the end of next week. This is a necessary sacrifice for the sake of peace in the region.

[Words indistinct] which have successfully and effectively completed this mission to which it is assigned, when a new government is established to fully stay in action, they will begin a multi-reconstruction program in Cambodia in which all the neighboring countries will be able to play their due roles. Cambodian leaders have expressed their keenness to develop a formal market economy, the free trade that ASEAN has been subscribing to and campaigning for.

The Cambodian Deputy Premier, Prince Norodom Chakkrapong, who was in Kuala Lumpur this week with an eight-member delegation, mentioned his country's reliance on Malaysia, especially its private sector, to lead the way in Cambodia's rebuilding efforts. He was thankful to Malaysia for its selflessness in extending its hand of friendship and cooperation when other associates have refused to go to Cambodia's assistance because of fear over (?unlasting) peace settlement. Malaysia has expressed in the press statement that despite his heavily scheduled duties at home, he had come to Kuala Lumpur to personally thank the Malaysian Government for all the help extended to restore peace in his country.

Malaysia is always, too, willing to show it is [word indistinct] in expertise with Cambodia, especially in its social, economic development, educational system, airline management, and tourism-related activities. This year [it] is [due to] Prince Chakkrapong's visit that the Cambodian people have a special thought in their hearts for Malaysia for the latter's help in the peace process. Malaysia also attaches great importance to that country's future development in other fields.

Prime Minister Hun Sen is reported to have said that once elections are over, Cambodia will seek membership in ASEAN. The ASEAN countries will warmly welcome Cambodia as well as the other Southeast Asian countries into the family so that they can work together to ensure that peace and stability can grow in the region for the good of all their people in the long run.

Chua Cites Growing Economic Ties With SRV

BK3003071692 Kuala Lumpur Voice of Malaysia in English 0600 GMT 30 Mar 92

[Text] Malaysia's economic ties with Vietnam have been expanding rapidly ever since that country adopted an open-door policy which welcomes foreign participation in its economic development. The deputy minister of international trade and industry, Mr. Chua Jui Meng, said trade between the two countries expanded by about seven times from 35 million ringgit in 1985 to 235 million ringgit last year. Malaysia's main exports to Vietnam are food items, cement, lime, machinery, yarn, telecommunications equipment, and fertilizers. Among the items imported from Vietnam are rice, oil seeds, maize, and pottery.

Mr. Chua was addressing a conference on business opportunities in Vietnam held in Kuala Lumpur. He said a visit to be made by Prime Minister Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir to Vietnam next month is expected to strengthen closer bilateral economic cooperation.

Cambodia

Spokesman Details Cease-Fire Violations

BK2703132792 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1200 GMT 27 Mar 92

[News conference by Major General Neang Phat, spokesman of the State of Cambodia Defense Ministry, at the Armed Forces Foreign Relations Department in Phnom Penh on 25 March—recorded]

[Text] [Unidentified correspondent] My respects to the general, spokesman of the Defense Ministry. According to the press and public opinion, many violations, especially those by the polpotists, have been reported in several areas since the signing of the Paris agreement. Please tell us about your views on these violations. Where and how did they take place?

[Neang Phat] As you all know, since the signing of the Paris agreement on 23 October 1991, five months have already passed. During these past five months, all Cambodian signatory parties have claimed to be implementing this historic agreement. However, one violation of the agreement after another has taken place, particularly those committed by the polpotists, who have stubbornly displayed an evident disdain for this important agreement. There have been 195 noteworthy instances of violations, including 47 armed violations, seven ambushes, four mine attacks, two snipings against cars, and one shooting of a UNAMIC [UN Advance Mission in Cambodia] helicopter. These violations resulted in the killing of 61 persons, wounding of 75 others, the burning of 10 homes, six cars, and 32 motorcycles, and the loss of a large quantity of money and other property. The regions where the polpotists have preferred to conduct their large-scale operations that have caused the most serious damage are the provinces of Kompong Thom, Siem Reap, and Battambang.

As you all know, on 26 February Khmer Rouge soldiers of Division 616 violated the agreement by shooting at a UNAMIC helcopter which was on a mission. The shooting seriously damaged the helicopter and wounded Australian Colonel Stuart. After that, on 27 February the Khmer Rouge used artillery guns to fire many shells on our positions east and northeast of Stoung, such as at Krayea and Vor Yeav, and a number of other nearby positions. Later on they used infantry troops to raid two of our other positions, and continued to fire at our positions. They even used DK-75 artillery pieces and H-107 rockets in these attacks. Moreover, they planted mines on Route 12, causing damage to several army trucks and passenger cars. As a matter of fact, at 0900 on 27 February, some 300 soldiers of the Khmer Rouge faction from Division 616 attacked the positions of the 1st Battalion, 89th Regiment at L'ak on coordinates 26/70, at Vor Yeav on 28/70, at Damrei Slap on 26/66, and Banteay Stoung on 29/62. In these attacks they used more than 200 rounds of 85-mm and DK-75 artillery pieces, forcing our troops to abandon their positions in Phum L'ak and Phum Vor Yeav. One of our men was killed and 10 were wounded. At 0900 on 29 February, Division 616 sent 300 soldiers under the cover of 85-mm artillery barrages to attack our position at Nipich on 28/76. So far, Phum L'ak and Phum Vor Yeav have remained under Khmer Rouge control.

On 1 March, the Khmer Rouge sent two trucks transporting all types of ammunition to supply their forces along the road from Pnum Toek to Phum Koul and Sangvat, in preparation for more attacks against our forces. At 1230 on 9 March, the Khmer Rouge faction blew up three bridges on the Kompong Thom-Preah Vihear Route 12 at O Pou on 52/01—a 30-meter bridge—at Trapeang Thlork on 14/94, and at Kouk Thnaot on 16/94. On the same day, Khmer Rouge forces attacked the 89th Regiment near Phum L'ak on 24/73, 12 km southeast of Stoung. On 10 March, Khmer Rouge forces blew up a bridge on Route 12 and mined a portion of this road, damaging an armored car [words indistinct]. On 11 March some 50-60 Khmer Rouge soldiers of the same Division 616 raided the positions of the 89th Regiment on 27/67 and 30/67 in the zone of our State of Cambodia [SOC]. The forces of our SOC fought back for 30 minutes, forcing the Khmer Rouge to pull back to point 17/62. [words indistinct] Khmer Rouge Commander Ta Mok's plan was to capture Chongkal, Samraong, and the upper part of Stung Treng and augment their arms and materiel before the arrival of UNTAC forces.

On 10 March, from 250 to 300 Khmer Rouge soldiers attacked SOC Government forces at Sre Noy under the cover of artillery barrages. On 11 and 12 March, Khmer Rouge forces fired 500 shells of 100-mm, 122-mm, DK-75, and B-30 artillery pieces on the SOC Government positions in Sre Noy. [passage indistinct] On 18 March, they brought in 115-mm artillery pieces to Phum Kantuok on 13/07 and 13/09 and at Kna Krau on 19/07 in an attempt to capture Sre Noy on 20 March for the purpose of cutting off the supply line on Route 12, causing difficulties to the supply of food to the people in Kompong Thom and Preah Vihear.

The Khmer Rouge were absent when the above activities were studied by UNAMIC and the liaison officers of the three factions. The meeting in Kompong Thom at 1600 on 9 March concluded that the tension that took place from 25 February to 18 March was caused and provoked by the Khmer Rouge, thus rendering the three other factions suspicious and ready for retaliation and obstructing the process of the implementation of the Paris agreement.

[Unidentified correspondent] Following the deployment of UNAMIC, since 15 March the UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] forces have arrived in Cambodia. The general is asked to please tell us about the composition of UNTAC already in Cambodia.

[Neang Phat] Mr. Yasushi Akashi and UNTAC Commander Gen. Sanderson arrived in Phnom Penh on 15 March. The UNTAC forces, according to the initial figures given us by UNAMIC, will have a total strength of 23,600, including 5,000 civilian personnel, 15,000 military personnel forming 12 infantry battalions, 300 Air Force personnel, 300 Navy personnel, and 3,600 policemen. Already present in Cambodia are 852 Indonesian soldiers and 47 Malaysian soldiers. The Indonesian soldiers reached Cambodia by ship at Kompong Som city and by plane in Phnom Penh. The Malaysian troops traveled by plane and landed in Battambang Province. A total of 899 UNTAC personnel thus arrived between 2 and 13 March. More than 1,000 UNAMIC civilian and military personnel were integrated into UNTAC on 15 March. There are thus nearly 2,000 UNTAC personnel in Cambodia as of 21 March.

[Unidentified correspondent] Since the UNTAC arrived in Cambodia, have the Khmer Rouge continued to violate the cease-fire? Have any measures been taken to cope with the tense situation in Kompong Thom?

[Neang Phat] Although the UNTAC has been in Cambodia since 15 March, the Khmer Rouge faction has continued to violate the cease-fire and to wreak havoc on the innocent Cambodian people. As a concrete example, at Kantuy Prek in Phum Khna Kampiech on 87/97, at 0630 on 24 March—after UNTAC had arrived—the Khmer Rouge threw some grenades that killed three people and wounded two others. At 0530 on the same day, 24 Khmer Rouge soldiers from Division 616 attacked and robbed the people in Kompong Svay, using four B-40.5s, one RPD, and one DK-75, which caused injuries to one male and four female inhabitants. Three adults and two children were among the five wounded. They seized three radio recorders, four bicycles, 100,000 riel, and one SKS rifle. A buffalo was also killed. On 21 March, the Khmer Rouge attacked the positions of our Division 1/79, wounding five of our men. On 22 March, a car transporting 20 passengers and a quantity of firewood from Phum Koki toward Kompong Thom on coordinates 34/04 was blown up by a landmine 50 meters from the O Chroev Bridge, called Sak Bei Um, on coordinates 16/49. Seventeen people were injured, five seriously and seven slightly. [numbers as heard] The car was completely damaged.

On how to solve the tense situation in Kompong Thom, allow me to tell you that when the situation was getting worse in Kompong Thom, UNAMIC had yet to be absorbed by UNTAC. UNAMIC's Gen. Loridon went to the field to check out the situation, which was later discussed at a meeting of the Mixed Military Working Group [MMWG] in Phnom Penh. Since 13 March, the MMWG has met a total of six times, both at level one and level two. The MMWG meetings under UNAMIC and UNTAC have been failures, however. The main cause of this failure was the fact that the Khmer Rouge had kept refusing to admit their actions against the Cambodian People's Armed Forces [CPAF], although all parties had clearly witnessed that they were responsible. UNAMIC and UNTAC precisely said that the Khmer Rouge were the ones who attacked our forces. In this situation, Mr. Loridon decided to propose that all factions put an end to the clashes and fully implement the cease-fire; the offending Khmer Rouge side must pull all their forces back to the positions they previously occupied before 25 February 1992 and must hand all territory they had seized from the CPAF back to the CPAF. However, the Khmer Rouge stubbornly refused to abide by this proposal.

In order to solve this problem, UNAMIC and UNTAC proposed to the representatives of all factions to indicate all their positions in Kompong Thom on the map in order to discuss the separation of forces to avoid further clashes. Our side, the FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia], and the Khmer People's National Liberation Front, pinpointed all of our positions on the map. Only the Khmer Rouge refused to do so, even though Mr. Loridon and Mr. Sanderson repeatedly urged them to comply. Therefore, we see that the Khmer Rouge continue to be recalcitrant toward UNAMIC and UNTAC, and particularly continue to violate the cease-fire of the Paris agreement.

[Unidentified correspondent] [Question indistinct]

[Neang Phat] I would like to inform you that our government, CPAF, authorities, and Cambodian people have spared no efforts to correctly implement the Paris agreement, and have shown utmost restraint toward all the violations by the Khmer Rouge faction. Generally speaking, we have closely cooperated with UNAMIC and UNTAC, and so have the two other factions. Only the Khmer Rouge faction has displayed a complete lack of any cooperative spirit. Therefore, we have always implemented to the best of our ability all the decisions taken by UNAMIC and UNTAC, both before and after the establishment of the MMWG. We have cooperated so that UNAMIC can fulfill its advance mission and, now, so that UNTAC can fulfill its mandate of securing peace for the people. In particular, we have given our cooperation by creating conditions for UNAMIC and UNTAC forces to move freely in the zones of our SOC, both on land and by air, and welcoming the assignment of liaison officers of various factions and the accredition of their representatives to the zones of our SOC, such as in Phnom Penh, Battambang, Siem Reap, and Kompong Thom. The Khmer Rouge have only now—that is, on 11 March—agreed to the setting up of a mixed working group in Pailin. We are also the first to have started mine clearance training courses and have identified control zones in many areas.

In summary, we have always been the first to implement all principles. We have allowed UNAMIC and UNTAC to inspect many centers that are being readied for troop concentration. In short, wherever UNAMIC and UNTAC wish to go, we always make it possible for them to go. By contrast, the Khmer Rouge have not yet permitted UNAMIC and UNTAC to inspect any areas other than Pailin, despite the repeated request of UNAMIC and UNTAC.

We have also cooperated in solving the map-making needs of the Mekong Committee. While we have given the committee all facilitating conditions, the Khmer Rouge have refused to allow any pictures to be taken for the committee's map-making operation.

Regarding the employment census of the International Labor Organization [ILO]—which has been divided into two stages: the study on vocational expertise and wishes of the soldiers to be demobilized, and the information gathering—we have provided the ILO with more than 20 officers to gather information on various fronts, such as in Phnom Penh, Battambang, and Siem Reap. Other factions have not been able to do the same. In particular, the Khmer Rouge have not authorized UNAMIC and ILO to carry out this task, on the pretext that the situation is not yet favorable and that UNTAC should be here first.

Defense Ministry Warns Khmer Rouge on Violations

BK2903054892 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 0430 GMT 29 Mar 92

["Communique of the spokesman of the State of Cambodia's Defense Ministry"; date and place not given—read by announcer]

[Text] It has been over five months since the signing of the Paris agreement on 23 October 1991. During this period, the Khmer Rouge side has carried out activities in successive violations of this agreement. To this day, there is concrete evidence of 195 violations. Recently, this side committed the most serious violations on National Route 12 from Kompong Thom to Preah Vihear, causing loss of lives and a great deal of people's property.

On 9 and 10 March 1992, the Khmer Rouge side mined and destroyed three bridges on National Route 12. On 22 March 1992, the Khmer Rouge side planted mines that destroyed a passenger vehicle in O Sandan at point 1500, wounding 17 people; the vehicle was completely damaged. On 24 March 1992, the Khmer Rouge side robbed people in (Kompong Tou) village in Kompong Svay District [Kompong Thom Province]; wounded five people; and took three tape recorders, four bicycles, and 100,000 riel.

To abide by the Paris agreement and to take food supplies to our people in Preah Vihear Province, the State of Cambodia's Defense Ministry demands that the Party of Democratic Kampuchea [PDK], which is committing violations in the National Route 12 area, urgently withdraw its forces from the area it has seized. If the Khmer Rouge side continues to carry out these barbarous activities in violation of the cease-fire and the Paris peace agreement, the State of Cambodia's Defense Ministry declares that it reserves the right to defend itself with appropriate measures.

Once again, the State of Cambodia's Defense Ministry appeals to the PDK to stop carrying out gross activities to seize and expand its area in order to maintain an atmosphere of mutual trust, security, and stability and in order to achieve the implementation of the 23 October 1991 peace agreement.

The State of Cambodia's Defense Ministry will continue to closely cooperate with all Cambodian parties and the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia to most correctly implement the Paris agreement.

Son Sen Message To UN Commander on Naval Force

BK2903024492 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 28 Mar 92

[Report on "message from His Excellency (H.E.) Son Sen, dated 27 March 1992, to H.E. General John Sanderson, commander of UN Troops in Cambodia"; read by announcer]

[Text] In his message, H.E. Son Sen specified that the Paris agreement and other points already decided should be adhered to as well as other points which have already been agreed upon.

H.E. Son Sen has written to H.E. General Sanderson on the naval force of the Phnom Penh side saying that the essence of the agreement should be adhered to. This force should be included in the framework of the dissolution of each party's army. The Phnom Penh side's naval force should not be left out as a separate force outside the Paris agreement.

H.E. Son Sen gave the following reasons:

Article 2, Chapter 1, of the agreement concerning the sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity, neutrality, and unity of Cambodia, says that:

1. Various parties to this agreement, through the agreement, solemnly pledge to recognize and in every respect abide by the sovereignty, independence, integrity, and inviolability of the territorial integrity, neutrality, and unity of the Cambodia nation. Cambodia's territorial integrity as stated above is specified in the land and maritime border internationally recognized before 18 March 1970.

In the same document Article 1, Chapter (?D), says that:

D. To end all treaties and agreements which are not in conformity with the sovereignty, independence, integrity, and the inviolability of Cambodia's territory, neutrality, and unity.

In reference to the above reasons, the Party of Democratic Kampuchea would like to reserve the right on the issue of sovereignty and territorial integrity as stated in Your Excellency's agenda. Therefore, this naval force of the Phnom Penh side should not be left out of the agreement.

Radio Calls for Firm Stance on Paris Agreement

BK2903040492 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 28 Mar 92

[Unattributed commentary: "What Is the Situation of Vietnamese Aggressor Forces in Cambodia? What Are the Duties of the Cambodian People Toward the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia and the Supreme National Council?"]

[Text] The root cause of the war in Cambodia is Vietnam's aggression. The Vietnamese aggressors are the cause of the war in Cambodia. The Vietnamese aggressors—troops, advisers, and administrative staff—are controlling the Phnom Penh side from top to bottom. In fact:

1. The Vietnamese aggressor forces in military regions of the Phnom Penh side are as follows:

—1,200 troops in the 1st Military Region in Stung Treng
—2,000 in the 2d Military Region in Kompong Cham
—2,000 in the 3d Military Region in Kompong Speu
—2,000 in the 4th Military Region in Siem Reap
—3,000 in the 5th Military Region in Battambang

2. Apart from this, there are between 50 and 100 Vietnamese technicians attached to each military region of the Phnom Penh side.

3. There are 7,800 Vietnamese aggressor forces in control in divisions, regiments, and battalions of the Phnom Penh side.

4. There are 500 Vietnamese aggressor troops in the Phnom Penh side's A-3 police.

5. There are another 200 Vietnamese aggressor troops, including commanders and various assistants, stationed in the headquarters of the Phnom Penh side.

Altogether, there are 23,700 Vietnamese aggressors controlling and occupying Cambodia, excluding 1,000 mobile Vietnamese troops from Vietnam who intervene in Cambodia each month.

6. Apart from this, there are over 1 million Vietnamese nationals in every Cambodian province and district.

Faced with this situation, in which Vietnam is controlling and occupying Cambodia, what are the duties of the Cambodian people to end and put out the fire of war in Cambodia? These are:

1. Put out the root cause of the fire of war. In other words, there should be control by the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia and the Supreme National Council so that all types of Vietnamese aggressor forces are withdrawn from Cambodia.

2. Dissolve all four Cambodian parties' armed forces, 70 percent first, and afterward the entire forces, to prevent the Vietnamese aggressors from disguising and hiding in the Phnom Penh side's army.

3. Deploy a UN peacekeeping force and the four Cambodian parties at checkpoints along Cambodia's eastern border to prevent the Vietnamese aggressor forces, ammunition, and war materiel from flowing into Cambodia again, in conjuction with the control of the four Cambodian parties' forces.

Only by standing firmly on the 23 October 1991 Paris agreement can the Cambodian people have peace with national independence.

Sihanouk Attends Release of Political Prisoners

BK3003093592 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 29 Mar 92

[Summary] A ceremony was organized at the Royal Palace on the morning of 29 March by the State of Cambodia [SOC] Ministry of National Security and the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC] to release 31 war and political prisoners from Koh Kong Province including six women, 26 from the Khmer Rouge faction, four from the Khmer People's National Liberation Front [KPNLF], and one from FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia]. "This ceremony held in the august presence of His Royal Highness Prince Norodom Sihanouk, head of state and chairman of the Cambodian Supreme National Council, was also attended as guests of honor by His Excellency [H.E.] Hor Namhong, SOC minister of foreign affairs representing the party and government of SOC, and the repsentatives of FUNCINPEC, KPNLF, and the party of Democratic Kampuchea [PDK]. H.E. Yasushi Akashi, head of the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia [UNTAC], H.E. Ataul Karim, H.E. Jean-Jacques Fresard, representative of ICRC in Cambodia, and their excellencies the ambassadors, permanent representatives, and special representatives of various countries to Cambodia were also on hand."

Lieutenent General Nuon Saret, deputy minister of national security, presented a report to the prince and his royal consort:

[Begin Nuon Saret recording] Respects to samdech and the princess, excellencies:

In compliance with the 23 October Paris agreement, the National Security Ministry of the SOC together with the ICRC decided to send to Phnom Penh 31 prisoners from Koh Kong, including four women, to be released by Prince Norodom Sihanouk and the princess consort.

So far the ministry has set free a total of 1,086 war and political prisoners, including 15 women. These 31 prisoners are the last batch to be released. The samdech and princess have presided over the release of 636 of them. Therefore, to this date we have released all war and political prisoners. "The release of the 1,086 war and political prisoners more clearly shows the goodwill of the SOC in general and of the SOC Ministry of National Security in particular to always implement the agreement. We therefore urge the opposition factions to do the same." [end recording]

On that solemn occasion, Prince Sihanouk made the following address to his 31 children:

[Begin Sihanouk recording] "My respects to H.E. Yasushi Akashi; to their excellencies, madames, ladies, and gentlemen, the distinguished representatives of the diplomatic corps, ICRC, and other international organizations; to their excellencies, ladies, and gentlemen, the children from the SOC and Cambodian People's Party [CPP], from the FUNCINPEC, from the KPNLF, and from the PDK.

"First of all I would like to express deepest thanks to all children in the CPP and SOC Government with Your Excellency the general deputy minister of the Ministry of National Security as the distinguished representative on this occasion, first, for taking the most correct measure in compliance with the conditions set by the Paris agreement in order to bring peace back to our country and, second, for respecting human rights by releasing all the children who because of the war or some unfortunate events in the past were detained as political or war prisoners. These 31 children are the last group to have their freedom as full-fledged citizens of our independent Cambodia restored. I am very pleased with the SOC and CPP. I am very glad that from now on my children in front of me here will fully enjoy freedom. You should know that there is no more sorrow for you.

"I would like to praise H.E. Jean-Jacques Fresard, the distiguished representative of the ICRC, for assisting me, assisting our Cambodia in solving the problem of detention experienced by some of my children. The ICRC has lent us a great helping hand. So have their excellencies and gentlemen from the humanitarian organizations and diplomatic corps represented here. We together with the SOC have accomplished all that. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank H.E. Yasushi Akashi, special representative of H.E. the UN secretary general, who will be staying with us for months—for more than one year—to help Cambodia bring back peace and freedom.

"I ask the permission of all of their excellencies, ladies, and gentlemen to address my children here. Dear children, you come from Koh Kong under the generous sponsorship of the SOC in order to see me. I am very glad to meet you. I have wished to go see you and set you free in Koh Kong. But because I am too busy—I just returned from Siem Reap and I am preparing to go to Battambang and Sisophon again in order to receive our refugees from Thailand—I could not go to Koh Kong. So in order not to make you wait too long, you are asked to come here to the Royal Palace. Anyway, you must have profited from this trip as you can now visit the palace and Phnom Penh in coming to see me and your princess mother. As you know, Phnom Penh is the capital of our country. I bet you are pleased to come to meet me in Phnom Penh, in the Royal Palace itself.

"After leaving this palace you are fully free. Do not worry that you might be arrested or detained again. All that is a thing of the past. H.E. Yasushi Akashi, representative of the United Nations, is also here in our country to take care of it so that there will be no more detention, so that Cambodians no longer fight fellow Cambodians. My children are hereby informed that there is reconciliation now.

"After leaving Phnom Penh, you should know that you have the right to choose wherever you want to live and work. You have the choice to live in whatever town and whatever province you like. You can also choose to return to your former zones, whether FUNCINPEC, PDK, or H.E. Son Sann's KPNLF. FUNCINPEC is the front of Prince Norodom Ranariddh and the representatives of the three factions are also present here. Or if you wish to live under SOC, you can do so. I make a request to H.E. the general deputy minister here to please provide assistance to any of my children who wishes to live under the SOC. Therefore, you can choose as you like, my children. You can live under the SOC or you can go to the side of Prince Ranariddh or the PDK or the front of H.E. Samdech Son Sann. It is all up to you to choose. No one can have the power to force you to do anything that you do not wish to do. You have full freedom. You may live with your families, with your friends, anywhere, even in a temple. [Sihanouk laughs] It is all up to you, my children.

"Concerning employment, you will have to contact those who used to support you. If you choose to stay with SOC, I would like to recommend you to the SOC also represented here by H.E. Hor Namhong, so that the CPP can assist you. Or if you need help from Prince Ranariddh, I can recommend you to those representing FUNCINPEC here. Or if you choose the PDK, the children from PDK are also here. Or if you want help from the front of H.E. Samdech Son Sann, the children from the front of H.E. Samdech Son Sann are also here. Therefore, you can contact anyone of them as you wish.

"In conclusion, I would like to tell you that I am very happy that now we Cambodians are reconciled under the patronage of the United Nataions with H.E. Yasushi Akashi as the lofty representative in Cambodia. We will have freedom within the framework of genuine liberal democracy. Therefore, all of you who are the servants of the nation will have the right to vote. You can vote for anyone, any party to represent you as your deputies in free elections organized by the United Nations and not by any particular Cambodian faction, so that we will have a national assembly and a government to run our Cambodia as a whole just as in my time in the past. Please remain assured that I will never be separated from you again. I will always stay with you, with the 8-9 million compatriots, and will be your shade from now on. I pray to the three jewels of Buddhism to protect H.E. Minister Hor Namhong, H.E. the general deputy minister of national security, to all excellencies, ladies, gentlmen, and all Cambodian children, including the children standing in front of me here and the children from all factions present. I pray to the three jewels also to bless H.E. Yasushi Akashi and all excellencies, madames, and gentlemen present here as well, as all foreign friends, including the journalists. May all of you enjoy the five blessings of Lord Buddha." [applause] [end recording]

H.E. Akashi then made the following speech: In my capacity as UNTAC head, I would like to guarantee that in the near future there will be free elections in Cambodia. After welcoming your release today, I will join Samdech Norodom Sihanouk in receiving the first batch of the more than 300,000 Cambodian refugees. I guarantee that this repatriation process will be crowned with success. I understand very well the sufferings that you have endured during your detention. I wish all of you the best.

ICRC representative Jean-Jacques Fresard also made the following speech: I thank the SOC authorities for cooperating with us in the past few days to make this solemn ceremony a success. "However, for the ICRC, the files have not been closed yet. This is because there are a number of legal aspects concerning the detainees that have not been solved. According to latest reports, we have learned that there has just been a new spate of detentions, especially in Kompong Thom Province, where violations of the cease-fire are taking place. We have received assurances from the SOC authorities that we will be permitted to inspect all areas in Cambodia [words indistinct]. We hope that the PDK will also authorize us to inspect the detainees in the zones controlled by the PDK in accordance with the conditions of Article 21 of the Paris agreement."

The ceremony ended in a joyous atmnosphere after the prince and princess had distributed gifts to the released prisoners.

Sihanouk Visits Bayon, Angkor Complex 24 Mar

BK2803073792 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 0430 GMT 26 Mar 92

[Summary from poor reception] On the afternoon of 24 March, His Royal Highness [HRH] Prince Norodom

Sihanouk and the princess consort, "accompanied by His Excellency [H.E.] Chea Sim, chairman of the Cambodian People's Party [CPP] Central Committee and of both the National Assembly and the Front's National Council, and his wife; H.E. Chea Soth, Standing Committee member of the CPP Central Committee; H.E. General Tie Banh, Standing Committee member of the CPP Central Committee, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers, minister of national defense, and member of the Cambodian Supreme National Council [SNC]; H.E. Kong Sam-ol, member of the CPP Central Committee, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers, and minister of the Cabinet of the Council of Ministers; Nhim Vanda, CPP Central Committee member and trade minister; Neou Sam, CPP Central Committee member and chairman of both the provincial party and people's committees; Hang Chuon, minister of information and culture; Him Chhem, deputy minister of information and culture; Min Khin, deputy minister of religious affairs; Lieutenant Gen. Loy Sophat, deputy minister of national security; Lt. Gen. Long Sopheap, commander of the 4th Military Region; and Van Sunheng, deputy director general of the Voice of the Cambodian People Radio, and many other officials and personages, visited the Bayon Temple."

After receiving the blessings chanted by the monks and rewarding them with gifts, HRH Prince Norodom Sihanouk made the following address to all compatriots, children, and grandchildren present there:

[Begin Sihanouk recording] "My most profound respects to the Supreme Patriarch and the venerable Buddhist clergy of glorious Siem Reap Province; my respects to H.E. Chairman Chea Sim and madame; my respects to excellencies, mesdames, ladies, gentlemen, and mistresses, the distinguished leaders in the CPP and State of Cambodia [SoC] Government; my respects to grandfathers, grandmothers, uncles, aunts, brothers, sisters, children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren; my respects to the elders and Buddhist followers whom I respect and love:

"I am very glad that after being separated from Your Highness and children and grandchildren for 20 years, I am now with you again under the shade of Lord Buddha and am able to pay respects to Buddha's image in the Angkor complex, the symbol of our Cambodia's civilization, progress, and power since time immemorial".

I am very glad to be able to come to pay respects to Buddhist monks in Siem Reap Province and here in the Angkor Thom Circles, the monument of King Chaiyavoraman VII who ruled Cambodia under the shade of Buddhism.

"At present, the CPP and SOC Government, with H.E. Chea Sim as the wise leader who cherishes the nation and Buddhism, have revived our Buddhism as the national religion after the disasters we suffered for over three years when the party of Mr. Pol Pot ruled our state." Our Buddhism has been revived and will continue to flourish and serve as a cool shade for all of us. Under the shade of Lord Buddha's teachings, we will enjoy freedom, independence, peace, security, happiness, and unity.

We have united closely under the shade of Buddhism. All children and grandchildren in Siem Reap Province are staying close to the Angkor Temple which is the soul of our nation and the symbol of immortal Cambodia which is to live for millions and even billions of years to come. With Supreme Patriarch Tep Vong as our religious leader under the shade of Buddhism, we will forever enjoy happiness and progress. The Paris agreement dated 23 October 1991 that our Cambodia signed with the United Nations will help us strengthen and expand peace and bring a liberal democratic regime to all our compatriots who are the owners of our national destiny.

"The United Nations has sent its peacekeeping forces successively to our country. These peacekeeping forces are not for combat. They are forces to help us strengthen our position with territorial integrity and peace." The Paris agreement is not different from Lord Buddha's teachings, that is it provides for freedom, peace, harmony, and unity of our Cambodian nation. It is to enable our Cambodia to live in peace with independence, security, happiness, and progress. It is to enable us to make progress in all fields, to enable us to have a better life as mentioned in Lord Buddha's five blessings. Thus, I would like to extend best wishes to all of you in this Siem Reap Province and the entire SOC. May all of you enjoy the five blessings of Lord Buddha. [end recording]

After Buddhist monks chanted blessings for him, HRH Prince Norodom Sihanouk, the princess consort, and their entourage left the temple after bidding farewell to monks and people there.

Sihanouk Briefs UN Envoy on Trip to Siem Reap

BK3003075492 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 0430 GMT 30 Mar 92

[Text] On the afternoon of 27 March at the Khemarin Palace, His Excellency [H.E.] Yasushi Akashi, chief of the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia, called on His Royal Highness [HRH] Prince Norodom Sihanouk, head of state and chairman of the Cambodian Supreme National Council.

HRH Prince Norodom Sihanouk told H.E. Yasushi Akashi that his recent trip to Siem Reap-Oddar Meanchey Province was a good plan since he returned to Phnom Penh. He further said that he was very moved and greatly honored by the visit to Siem Reap-Oddar Meanchey after a separation of more than 20 years.

Indian Foreign Ministry Official Meets Sihanouk

BK2803085392 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 0430 GMT 28 Mar 92

[Text] At 1100 on 27 March 1992 at the Khemarin Palace, His Royal Highness [HRH] Prince Norodom Sihanouk, head of state and chairman of the Cambodian Supreme National Council [SNC], received and granted an audience to His Excellency [H.E.] Mehrotra, government secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs of the Republic of India.

HRH Prince Norodom Sihanouk was delighted and warmly welcomed the visit of the Indian Ministry of External Affairs delegation. HRH Prince Norodom Sihanouk stressed that the visit, although short, was certainly valuable in further strengthening and expanding the existing relations of friendship and solidarity between the two countries. The prince also talked about the results of the implementation of the Paris peace agreement where he highlighted the SNC meetings and the subsequent presence of the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia to consolidate and bring this peace process to a success.

Replying, H.E. Mehrotra expressed his fine sentiments for the visit just as the political situation in Cambodia is rapidly evolving. He also thanked HRH Prince Norodom Sihanouk and the State of Cambodia's Government for providing him a good understanding of the situation in Cambodia.

Meets Chea Sim

BK2903094692 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 28 Mar 92

[Text] On the afternoon of 27 March at the office of the Cambodian People's Party [CPP] Central Committee, His Excellency [H.E.] Chea Sim, chairman of the CPP Central Committee and chairman of both the National Assembly and the Kampuchean United Front for National Construction and Defense National Council, received and held cordial talks with H.E. Mehrotra, secretary of the Ministry of External Affairs of the Republic of India.

H.E. Chea Sim welcomed the visit by H.E. Mehrotra to Cambodia which will further strengthen and expand the existing relations of friendship and solidarity and cooperation between the two countries and people of Cambodia and India. He also thanked the Indian Government for its contribution to the search for peace for the Cambodian motherland and assistance in restoring Angkor Wat temple. H.E. Chea Sim informed his guest about the implementation of the peace agreement signed in Paris and stressed the cease-fire violations by the Khmer Rouge side.

Replying, H.E. Mehrotra voiced suport for the goodwill stance of the State of Cambodia's Government in implementing the peace agreement. He added that the Indian Government is ready to send police and civilian personnel to join the UN peacekeeping force in Cambodia to bring about peace in Cambodia and to organize general elections in Cambodia next year once there is a decision by H.E. Yasushi Akashi. India will also provide material and medicine to restore and rebuild Cambodia.

Indonesia

Government Rejection of Netherlands Aid Hailed

BK2703081092 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 0600 GMT 27 Mar 92

[From the press review]

[Text] SUARA KARYA views the president's decision to reject Netherlands aid as a correct step that has been supported by the people. The people have the same feelings that it is time for us to show a firm stand toward countries that want to impose their will on us through money. The question is now: How serious will the impact of the discontinuation of the Netherlands aid and the possible dissolution of the IGGI [Intergovernmental Group on Indonesia] be on the funding of development programs in Indonesia? Accordingly, SUARA KARYA believes that the government's decision must encourage all of us to enhance our efforts and creativity to seek new sources of funds and efficiently manage the available funds.

In connection with the matter, POS KOTA and PELITA view the rejection of the aid as a firm stand demonstrated by a sovereign nation. This decision has given us a sense of relief because we have appeared to be helpless against Netherlands interference in Indonesia by linking its aid with our internal affairs.

BERITA YUDHA says the rejection of the Netherlands aid does not mean that we are not ungrateful for its aid. We have rejected the aid because we do not want to sacrifice national sovereignty and dignity just for the sake of aid. We have refused to exchange national independence, sovereignty, and dignity with anything, including economic aid.

In the meantime, KOMPAS says that the government's decision must create a momentum for our people to further enhance awareness of the need for self-reliance in development. However, KOMPAS adds that self-reliance has a number of implications. Thus, the daily urges the Indonesians to be able and willing to work harder, more zealously, and more productively and lead a thrifty and simple life. We have to become a tough nation, not a feeble nation. This will happen if all forms of the abuse of power and opportunities are curbed and we renew our determination to establish a nation having a clean, just, efficient, productive, and competitive government.

Business Group Supports Decision

BK2803091892 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 1500 GMT 27 Mar 92

[Text] The Indonesian Chamber of Commerce and Industry [Kadin] is pleased to hear the Indonesian Government's decision to reject the Netherlands' development aid because such a decision is in line with the dignity of the nation and country. A statement signed by Kadin Chairman Sotion Arjangi was given to reporters in Jakarta this morning in support of the government's announcement on the aid rejection last Wednesday. Arjangi stressed that Kadin fully supports the government's move.

The organization grouping the country's businessmen also expressed regret over the fact that some countries had violated the ethics of international relations. While Kadin is aware of the country's need to receive overseas aid for its national development programs, such assistance should not be given with political strings attached, especially when the conditions for such aid have humiliated the country's dignity.

Projects To Be Phased Out

BK2803141092 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 1200 GMT 28 Mar 92

[Excerpt] Finance Minister J.B. Sumarlin says the government will phase out all Netherlands-financed development projects in Indonesia. Sumarlin made the remarks to reporters in Jayapura today after he presented the list of development projects to the provincial governor, adding that the government is now reviewing all economic assistance given by the Netherlands Government following Indonesia's decision to stop receiving aid from that country. Several Netherlands-financed development projects will be scrapped immediately, while others will be discontinued gradually. [passage omitted]

Refusal Not 'Connected' To Dili

BK2903094892 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 0000 GMT 29 Mar 92

[Text] Foreign Minister Ali Alatas said the Indonesian Government's decision to reject economic aid from the Netherlands Government was not in any way connected with the 12 November Dili incident. The Indonesian Government had made a careful and mature consideration before making its decision to reject the Netherlands economic aid. In fact, the mature decision taken by Indonesia was a firm reaction to the numerous forms of pressure and untoward actions undertaken by the Netherlands Government.

This was clarified to newsmen in Dili yesterday by Foreign Minister Ali Alatas after handing over a list of development projects for East Timor province for the 1992-93 fiscal year. East Timor's development projects would cost more than 193,136 billion rupiah. The minister stressed that Indonesia as a sovereign state would reject any assistance from any country which tries to spread its influence through various forms of threats.

According to Minister Ali Alatas, Indonesia has constantly and highly respected human rights and the Netherlands' accusation that Indonesia has violated human rights is totally baseless.

Commander: East Timor Situation Now Very Calm

BK2803143092 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 1200 GMT 28 Mar 92

[Text] Having held three-hour talks with Brigadier General Theo Syafei, commander of the East Timor Operations Command, in Dili last night, Foreign Minister Ali Alatas said he had been briefed by the commander on the province's security situation. During the talks, Alatas also asked the commander to brief him about development programs in East Timor and people's participation in such programs.

Brig. Gen. Theo Syafei said the situation in East Timor is now very calm and people have regained their enthusiasm to work and develop their province. The commander added that Dili and its surroundings are now very safe, even safer than Jakarta or New York, where people often die of violent crimes.

Alatas: Foreign Policy To Be More Assertive

BK2803092092 Jakarta THE JAKARTA POST in English 13 Mar 92 p 12

[Excerpts] JAKARTA (JP)—Indonesia will become more assertive in its foreign policy as power shifts in the world following the end of the Cold War, says Foreign Minister Ali Alatas.

"The cycle has now returned and many countries, especially members of the Non-aligned Movement, are turning their attention to Indonesia in search of a leadership," Alatas said referring to global political changes in a DPR (House of Representatives) hearing Wednesday.

Powerful countries are now aware that Indonesia has been right all along when they suddenly find themselves in a world with no power blocs.

"Dont't look at the word "non-aligned", it is a bad name which I myself don't like. It is a negation... non-aligned, so what? But many countries forget what happened on the other side (of the coin), there had been substantial cooperation in the field of politics, economics, and also culture."

Alatas reminded the members that as one of the founders of the Non-aligned Movement, Indonesia has since 1955 adopted the non-aligned policy, when it hosted the African-Asian conference in Bandung.

Now that a new power structure is taking its form, many countries, including members of the Non-aligned Movement are finding that Indonesia has been one of a few countries which has a consistent foreign policy.

In the past we adopted a low-profile foreign policy. We kept quiet if any countries commented or attacked us. Now it is time to make ourselves heard," a spirited Alatas said only hours after the Indonesian Navy succeeded in turning away demonstrators who trespassed into the nation's territorial waters in East Timor aboard a ferry. [passage omitted]

Alatas, in response to charges from DPR members that his ministry has been slow to solve the East Timor issue, made it clear that assertiveness of the nation's foreign policy has actually been applied against Portugal since 1982.

Twenty-Five UN Policemen To Serve in Cambodia

BK3003011092 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 0000 GMT 30 Mar 92

[Text] Police Lieutenant General Kunarto, chief of the Republic of Indonesia Police, has seen off six police officers and 19 noncommissioned police officers to join the Garuda XII contingent in Cambodia. According to a press release issued by the Information Service of the General Headquarters of the Republic of Indonesia Police, the police chief asked the selected policemen to maintain cohesion and not to be easily influenced by the situation they would face. The police lieutenant general asked the policemen to maintain the nation's reputation in Cambodia.

Party Backs Military Chief for Vice Presidency

BK3003045092 Hong Kong AFP in English 0412 GMT 30 Mar 92

[Text] Jakarta, March 30 (AFP)—The Democratic Party of Indonesia (PDI) has proposed military chief General Try Sutrisno as the country's next vice president, the MERDEKA daily said here Monday.

"For the vice presidency, PDI sees it as necessary and a must that it be held by ABRI (the Indonesian Armed Forces)... and the most suitable one is the Armed Forces commander," Merdeka quoted PDI Secretary General Nico Daryanto as saying in Pontianak, West Kalimantan, over the weekend.

Daryanto, however, declined to name his preference as candidate for the presidency, to be decided along with the next vice-presidency in 1993. Sutrisno has not publicly commented on the PDI leader's [word indistinct].

The PDI, a Christian-nationalist coalition, is the smallest of the country's three political parties after the ruling Golkar and the quasi-Muslim United Development Party (PPP).

The three parties will run in the elections on June 9, to fill 400 of the 500 seats of the parliament. The other 100 seats are allocated to members of the Armed Forces, who do not have the right to vote.

The 500 parliamentarians will join another 500 presidential appointees from all walks of life to form the People's Consultative Assembly (MPR) which will elect a president and a vice-president for the upcoming five-year term to start in 1993.

Indonesian President Suharto, 70, is currently serving his fifth consecutive five-year term and so far there are no other candidates for the presidency. Several Muslim organizations have already expressed their support for the nomination of Suharto, a retired general, as candidate for another term.

Indonesia's current vice-president is Sudharmono, a retired lieutenant-general.

Laos

Selection of Thai Prime Minister Viewed

BK2903122192 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0500 GMT 28 Mar 92

[PASASON feature: "The Post-Election Political Storm in Thailand"—date not given]

[Text] Respected listeners, the general election for Thailand's House of Representatives was held on 22 March. The Samakkhi Tham Party won the most seats, followed by the Chat Thai Party, the New Aspiration Party, the Democrat Party, Phalang Tham Party, Social Action Party, and others. Immediately after the election results were announced, various political parties with similar views held a consultation to select a suitable person for the next prime minister of Thailand.

On 25 March, the parties that gained the most seats in the House, namely the Samakkhi Tham Party, Chat Thai Party, Social Action Party, and Prachakon Thai Party, met to select the next prime minister. A report said following the meeting, the four parties agreed to nominate the Samakkhi Tham Party leader, Narong Wongwan, to be the next prime minister. The party had won 79 seats, the most in the House. However, the news of the nomination has aroused public criticism. Their main point of contention is that Narong Wongwan has been accused of being involved in drug trafficking. Later, Narong Wongwan denied the accusation describing it as groundless. He has even asked the public not to pay excessive attention to this issue. He reiterated that Thailand should settle the important issue of improving bilateral trade with the accusing country. Regarding the amendment to the constitution, Narong Wongwan said that was the next issue. The urgent one now is improving the welfare of the Thai people.

Despite Mr. Narong's denial, the public has continued to rain criticism on him. However, Mr. Narong has also gained vigorous support. Many Thai personages, who have worked in the drug suppression for decades, have called for justice for Mr. Narong. In their interviews on 26 March, Police General Phao Sarasin, deputy prime minister of the present Thai Government and who is in charge of drug suppression; and Police General Chawalit Yotmani, chief of the drug suppression committee; clearly said there is no evidence to prove that Mr. Narong was involved in drug trafficking. General Athit Khamlang-ek, former deputy prime minister of the Chatchai Chunhawan government and who was then in charge of drug suppression and control, has also come forth with similar views. In this regard, many of Mr. Narong's supporters have raised asked why has the accusation been made against Mr. Narong just as he is on his way to becoming the prime minister, and whether this is a political maneuver aimed at undermining his influence?

However, no clear conclusion has been made on the facts of the issue. Actually, this is an internal matter of the Thai people. But, it has given Mr. Narong a negative image. Nevertheless, the majority of the Thai public maintain that by deciding to nominate Mr. Narong, the four political parties have done the right thing in accordance with traditional practice and in conformity to democratic principles.

Talking about the qualifications, Thai public opinion confirms that Narong Wongwan is a politician who has experience in running national affairs. Narong Wongwan was the deputy interior minister during the Kriangsak Chamanan government, the minister of agriculture and cooperatives on two occasions, and leader of the Solidarity Party, and now leader of the Samakkhi Tham Party. He is, therefore, qualified to take up the post as the next Thai prime minister. Nevertheless, no matter who becomes the next prime minister of Thailand, he will still face many obstacles. Verbal attacks will still continue among parties of the various groups before the problem is settled. This reflects the conflicting interests among the political groups in Thailand.

We, the Lao people, have always desired to coexist peacefully with the Thai people in an atmosphere of peace, friendship, and cooperation. We pledge to respect the Thai people's rights to self- determination in connection with their selection of the next prime minister of their country. We, Lao people, are convinced that Thailand will certainly overcome all the obstacles on this issue.

Sino-Lao Border Markers Planted

BK2803154192 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 1200 GMT 28 Mar 92

[Text] Implementing the agreement signed between the governments of Laos and China in Beijing in October 1991, the joint technical border committees of the two countries began erecting boundary posts along the 400-km-long Sino-Lao border in early March. An official ceremony to mark the event was held on 25 March at the border demarcation marker no. 2951 in Laos' Luang Namtha Province and China's Yunnan Province.

Attending the ceremony on Lao side were Soulivong Phasitthidet, deputy minister of foreign affairs, and Thongsavat Boupha, Lao ambassador to the PRC, together with members of the Lao-Chinese Technical Border Committee and representatives from Luang Namtha, Oudomsai, and Phong Saly provinces. Attending on the Chinese side were Huang Guocai, PRC ambassador to the Lao People's Democratic Republic, and (Kai Jinguang), vice chairman of the administrative committee of Yunnan Province, along with members of the Sino-Lao Technical Border Committee and representatives from the Chumao, (Chinhong), and La counties.

Soulivong Phasitthidet and (Kai Jinguang), in their speeches at the ceremony, noted the historic significance of the border marker planting which, they said, has been significant in strengthening solidarity, friendship, and cooperation between the two countries on the basis of the respect for each other's independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity.

The planting of the boundary posts stretches from the Lao-Vietnamese-Chinese border to the Burmese-Chinese border. It comprises 45 (?nickel) posts, each of which weighs some three metric tonnes. So far, some 28 markers have been planted. The planting is expected to be completed in May this year.

PRC, Bokeo Province Agriculture Technicians Meet

BK2803115292 Vientiane KPL in English 0909 GMT 28 Mar 92

[Text] Vientiane, March 28 (KPL)—The Lao northern Bokeo Province on March 24 organized a consultative meeting on agriculture between agricultural and irrigation technicians of the province and of the Chumao county, Yunnan Province, the People's Republic of China.

The meeting was focussed on the establishment of experiment areas on 33 ha in Bokeo for high-yielding wet rice strains. The technicians also discussed the introuduction of modern techniques in growing sugar canes, soya beans, fruit and industrial trees, and methods of developing agriculture in Bokeo. Matters on the survey of the construction of irrigation facilities and hydropower stations were also dealt with.

In the near future, according to the source, representatives of companies and factories operating in import-export business, tourism, cement production of Chumao, will visit Bokeo to seek opportunities of business cooperation in the province.

Philippines

Manila Negotiaties With PRC Over Fishermen

HK2803045692 Manila DWIZ Voice of the Filipino People's Radio in Tagalog 2200 GMT 27 Mar 92

[Excerpt] The embassy of the People's Republic of China in Manila is now trying to negotiate with Undersecretary

Feliciano Gasis Jr. of the Department of National Defense for the release of seven Chinese fishermen who were earlier arrested off the coast of the Spratly Islands by members of the Philippine Navy.

In an interview with the DWIZ Headline Patrol, Gasis said that PRC officials are trying to persuade them to release the Chinese fishermen who were caught fishing illegally in the part of the Spratly Islands which is now being occupied by the Philippines. Gasis added that they will still have to review the PRC officials' request. [passage omitted]

Army Chief Denies Presence of Israeli Agents

HK2703120092 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 1000 GMT 27 Mar 92

[Text] Major General Arturo Enrile, Philippine Army chief, stated that reports spread by the New People's Army regarding Israeli intelligence conspiring with the government to monitor rebel movements are simply propaganda. Josette Olivera reports:

[Begin recording] Enrile clarified that the reports on the presence of Israeli intelligence agents in the country are not true. Some may have mistaken a Philippine soldier, who looked like a foreigner, for an Israeli agent. At the same time, Enrile said there is a great possibility that the military can win strategic control over the communist rebels this year. He noted that there have been many commandos who declared they are turning over to the police internal security places they have ended communist influence. Enrile also denied the communist rebels' accusation that the military pulled out of the scheduled peace talks with the Communist Party of the Philippines in Brussels. [end recording]

Opposition to UN Sanctions Against Libya Urged

HK3003021792 Quezon City MALAYA in English 29 Mar 92 p 2

[Text] The Bagong Alyansang Makabayan [Bayan-New Nationalist Alliance] yesterday urged the government to oppose U.S. moves in the United Nations Security Council to impose harsh air, arms, diplomatic and economic sanctions on Libya saying the move would affect thousands of Filipino overseas contract workers in that North African state.

In a media statement, Bayan also criticized the plan of U.S. Ambassador Frank Wisner urging the Aquino government to evacuate Filipino overseas workers from Libya in the light of the tense situation.

"The Philippines should not take part in the scheme to discredit and destroy Libya. Not only do we stand to lose 60,000 jobs for Filipino overseas workers but international law and justice will also be the victim of self-serving interpretations of western powers. It is alarming that the UN Security Council is being manipulated by the U.S., Great Britain and France for its aggressive intentions towards Libya and other sovereign countries," it added.

Estrada To Run as Cojuangco's Vice President

HK3003020492 Quezon City Radio ng Bayan in Tagalog 2200 GMT 29 Mar 92

[Italicized passages in English]

[Text] Senator Joseph Estrada, Party of Filipino Masses' presidential candidate, has decided not to push through with his presidential candidacy. Instead, he will run as former Ambassador Cojuangco's vice president under the National People's Coalition [NPC]. Estrada plans to inform the Commission on Elections of his decision today.

[Begin Estrada recording] It really hurts. *I spent already four sleepless nights. Even my mother's crying. So I would say that in order not to be out of the limelight, I have to choose the other alternative, which is to run as the vice president of Mr. Cojuangco.* [end recording]

According to political observers, Senator Estrada was persuaded to withdraw from the presidential race due to lack of funds needed for his campaign. However, Estrada thanked his supporters and told them that he does not regret his decision. He hopes that in the future, poor but worthy candidates will also have the opportunity to become president.

[Begin Estrada recording] *Whatever happens here, I think, is God's will. I have that much faith in Him. In Him, I am willing to face any consequence for whatever decision may go to.* [end recording]

On the other hand, Estrada's running mate, Vicente Rivera, Jr., said that one must sacrifice for the benefit of the majority. This was Rivera's reaction to Estrada's decision to join the NPC.

[Begin Rivera recording] Who does not want to be a president? I am really dying to help our suffering countrymen. However, the time came, hard as it may be to admit. [end recording]

Army Modernization Program Reportedly on Track

HK3003030092 Manila BUSINESS WORLD in English 30 Mar 92 p 30

[By Ramoncito de la Cruz]

[Text] The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) is expected to wrap up at least six procurement contracts for the different sophisticated military vehicles and armaments as part of its 10-year modernization program.

This was disclosed over the weekend by AFP chief of staff Lisandro Abadia during the anniversary ceremony of the Visayan Command in Camp Lapu-lapu in Cebu City.

According to him, the materiels which were already in the latter phase of the negotiations include the M-155 cannons and the M-105 howitzers for the Philippine Army, six "missile-qualified" attack gunboats and 78-footer fast attack crafts for the Philippine Navy, SF-260 turbo-prop planes and F5-E model jet planes for the Philippine Air Force.

The specific amounts of each package, however, were not disclosed.

General Abadia told the different field commanders detailed in the Visayan region that the modernization program is "on track" and "the AFP is looking into the future at equipping the Armed Forces with all available conventional weaponry."

He further assured that he has already been given the "go signal" by Malacanang and the present Congress.

Aside from the soon-to-be acquired military assets, the AFP is already in the midst of acquiring the first batch of other hardwares under the Foreign Military Sales.

General Abadia identified those which are already being delivered to the country as the V-150 commando light tanks which were to replace the locally manufactured armored vehicles; the China-manufactured Logistics Support Vessels (LSV) to replace the Landing Ship Tanks (LST); S-211 jet trainer planes, the OV-10 Bronco planes to replace the T-28 Tora-Tora planes; and the 24 MG-520 assault helicopters.

Arms Upgrade for External Defense Said Planned

HK2603100292 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 26 Mar 92

[By Rodney Jaleco]

[Text] The Philippine Army will strengthen its armed forces by buying more tanks and repairing equipment. General Lisandro Abadia, Armed Forces chief, said the strengthening of the Army will be given top priority because the group will be leading a new and modern force concentrated on the country's external defense. Abadia was guest speaker at the 6th Philippine Army Light Armored Brigade, headed by Colonel Vic Garcia, held this morning in Fort Bonifacio. Abadia said he has invited experts from the Daewoo Corporation in South Korea to repair and modify the M-113 armored personnel carriers belonging to the said brigade, while the Armed Forces are awaiting money to buy new tanks. Included in the inventory of the Light Armored Brigade are Scorpion tanks, armored infantry fighting vehicles, V-150 armored personnel carriers, and the M-113. Abadia said the brigade members should not lose hope with the delay of a project to make Simba armored personnel carriers for the country. Some sectors have questioned the plan to buy Simba because they have not been battle-tested. The Army plans to use the Simba to replace its V-150's.

Military Decides To Convert Wallace Air Base

HK2603111392 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 1000 GMT 26 Mar 92

[By Josette Olivera]

[Text] The Armed Forces leadership has decided to convert Wallace Air Station into an air defense base complex because of the loss of Basa Air Base in Floridablanca, Pampanga, which was destroyed by the Mount Pinatubo eruption. The 580th Air Command and Warning Wing, headed by Colonel Edmundo Lloma, is the Philippine Air Force's major unit responsible for maintaining an early warning network for the country's air defense. The first batch of personnel from the 589th Communications and Electronic Squadron, 587th Supplies Depot Squadron, and the 588th Engineering Squadron under the 580th Wing have moved to the air station.

Estanislao Favors Lower Peso Exchange Rate

HK2703040092 Manila THE CHRONICLE in English 27 Mar 92 p 1

[By Leticia Perez]

[Text] The exchange rate right now should be P30 to P32 to the dollar but market forces have been propping the peso up, Finance Secretary Jesus Estanislao said yesterday.

In his lecture before professors and students of the University of the Philippines, Estanislao said the government, through the Central Bank [CB], has been intervening to prevent the peso from further appreciating, but added that it is ultimately the market that decides the exchange rate.

The market Estanislao mentioned refers to the present floating rate system wherein the exchange rate of the peso, which is pegged to the U.S. dollar, is determined by the commercial banks based on the amount of foreign exchange they sell to or buy from each other.

Most banks are selling their foreign exchange holdings for fewer pesos—which explains the high peso rate—because of lack of demand from importers and other foreign currency users.

But, the finance secretary pointed out, the monetary and fiscal authorities could only do so much because, ultimately, it is the market which decides the exchange rate for the peso.

Exporters claim that the high rate of the peso against the U.S. dollar has made their products expensive to foreign buyers which has, therefore, reduced their export competitiveness.

Estanislao said authorities are now discussing the possibility of abolishing the 40% dollar rentention limit, which was adopted only last January, and allowing exporters to keep all of their export proceeds.

He said that in order to make the exchange rate more realistic, the finance department has also reduced the foreign exchange cover granted to the oil companies from 180 days to 120 days and then to 90 days.

The CB, he added, would also begin to use $550 million of its dollar reserves to finance the debt buy-back program.

Estanislao said these moves would hopefully improve the current lopsided peso-dollar rate which economists said would only hurt the exporters.

Bribing of Witnesses Against Marcoses Feared

HK2603020392 Manila DWIZ Voice of the Filipino People's Radio in Tagalog 2200 GMT 25 Mar 92

[Text] Assistant State Prosecutor Aurelio Trampo said he fears a change of mind among witnesses in the cases brought by the government against former first lady Imelda Marcos and her children. He said the witnesses may decide not to testify if they are bribed not to do so. This now seems more likely, especially since the court case against Mrs. Marcos and her children has had to be postponed because of the death of presiding Judge Tomas Tadeo. Among those who had been expected to testify against the Marcoses are the cashiers of the Ministry of Human Settlements and the PAG-IBIG [expansion unknown—former home development mutual fund, an urban housing agency] Fund, the Ilocos Norte provincial treasurer and the Bureau of Internal Revenue treasurer.

Imelda Marcos Plans Return of Husband's Remains

HK2803045592 Manila DWIZ Voice of the Filipino People's Radio in Tagalog 2200 GMT 27 Mar 92

[Text] Former First Lady Imelda Marcos has decided to bring home her husband's remains on 12 April. According to Mrs. Marcos' lawyer, Dean Antonio Coronel, the remains of President Marcos will be temporarily buried in a refrigerated crypt in Paoay, Ilocos Norte.

From Laoag Airport, where the chartered plane bearing the corpse from Hawaii will land, the remains of the former president will be brought to Batac, where a nine-day wake will be held beside the refrigerated crypt of the former president's mother, Dona Josefa Edralin Marcos.

Coronel stressed that Mrs. Marcos will inform Malacanang of the details for her husband's return and burial within the coming week when all arrangements have been finalized.

Communists Said To Purchase Arms From Military

HK2803043092 Manila DWIZ Voice of the Filipino People's Radio in Tagalog 2200 GMT 27 Mar 92

[Text] It is being said that the Red Scorpion Group [RSG] buys its large-caliber weapons from the Armed Forces of the Philippines [AFP] and the Philippine National Police [PNP]. According to Alfredo de Leon, the leader of the RSG, the firearms being used by his more than 100 men were bought from Fort Bonifacio and Camp Crame through the help of civilian contacts who have friends in the AFP and PNP.

De Leon said that an estimated P2.5 [pesos] million-worth of various weapons and ammunitions were bought by the RSG from the two camps. De Leon refused to identify the officers at the two camps involved in the weapons sale; however, he did say that a military captain and another officer at the camp were their contacts. The purchases were done one at a time to avoid attracting attention to the large amount of money changing hands.

Meanwhile, the PNP is offering P1 million for any information that will lead to the whereabouts of De Leon. The reward is being offered in line with the abduction of U.S. businessman Michael Barnes and other kidnapping cases perpetrated by the RSG in the country.

Manila To Protect People on RSG Kidnap List

HK3003020892 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 2200 GMT 29 May 92

[Text] The government will provide police protection for presidential candidate Eduardo Cojuangco and 13 businessmen who are on the Red Scorpion Group's [RSG] list of proposed kidnap targets. However, Cojuangco says the Commission on Elections must rule on whether he can be allowed additional security to protect him from potential kidnappers. Besides Cojuangco, the kidnap list includes Henry Sy, owner of ShoeMart; Al Yuchengco, owner of Rizal Commercial Banking Corporation; John Gokongwei, owner of Robinson's Department Store; and other wealthy Chinese businessmen in the country. The kidnap plan was discovered in documents, confiscated by agents of the Philippine National Police, belonging to RSG Head Alfredo del Leon when he was arrested last year. Superintendent Vicente Vinarao, Criminal Investigation Service chief, said they are keeping an eye on the businessmen.

Meanwhile, the RSG has declared its readiness to join the nationalist group Reform the Armed Forces Movement as well as other revolutionary groups overseas. In an interview, Alfredo del Leon said his group is preparing to join international revolutionary movements like the Irish Republican Army [IRA], the Palestinian Liberation Organization, and the Japanese Red Army. He added that the RSG is amenable to once again joining forces with the Communist Party of the Philippines-New People Army's Alex Boncayao Brigade, if they so wish. De Leon said his group has decided to join forces with revolutionary movements for a common principle. He said the RSG's aim is to oppose oppressive foreigners and abusive businessmen.

Teenagers Recruited 'To Liquidate' Candidates

HK3003025492 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 30 Mar 92 pp 1, 2

[By Jen Jorvina]

[Text] Camp Canuto, Pili, Camarines Sur—A 12-year-old member of the New People's Army (NPA) and four other youngsters, including two females, have confirmed to the military that young rebels will be used to liquidate candidates failing to pay "safe conduct fee" during the campaign period.

The military said that the young rebels were among the 10, aged 12 to 14 years old, who took part in the two-year "Batayang Kursong Militar" [Basic Military Training] training course undertaken by the NPA guerrillas in the mountain ranges of Caramoan Peninsula at Lagonoy town, this province.

Col Victor A. Mayo, 201st Infantry Brigade [IB] commander, identified the young rebels as Rosito Abunda Jr alias Ka [Comrade] Jonathan, 12, of Tinambac town; his 18-year-old brother Rudy alias Ka Bugoy; his 15-year-old sister Virginia alias Ka Gina; Brenda Marolino alias Ka Cristy, 16, of Presentacion town, all of this province; and Marcelo Recto alias Ka Rogel, 19, of barangay Pinamihagan, Goa.

In his report to Maj Gen Arturo T. Enrile, Philippine Army commanding general, Mayo said that Ka Jonathan and Ka Bugoy were taught how to perform combat exercises, crawl, and to use automatic rifles.

The young Rosito also knows how to disassemble and assemble an automatic carbine rifle.

The youthful rebels were presented to Enrile who arrived together with Brig Gen Regino F. Lacson, newly designated 2nd Infantry Division commander, replacing Brig Gen Cesar F. Fortuno, newly designated Southern Luzon Command (Solcom) chief.

Enrile was the guest speaker of the 201st IB's 16th anniversary last Friday.

Ka Bugoy, a regular NPA fighter, and his sister Virgie told Enrile that the three of them were taken by NPAs as substitute for their ailing parents.

Ka Cristy, who was kidnaped by the NPAs in January 1991 at Ocampo town, revealed that she was trained to be a radio operator by Amparo Hicarte alias Ka Loyda for two years.

They also told the visiting military officials and newsmen that the NPAs are training young rebels to liquidate candidates who will not provide the "safe conduct fees" as follows:

For president, P200,000 [Philippine pesos] plus 20 water pumps per province; senator, P100,000 plus 10 water pumps per province; representatives, P50,000 plus five water pumps per district; governor, P150,000 plus five water pumps; vice governor, P50,000 plus two water pumps; mayor, P25,000 plus two water pumps and councilors, P10,000.

Mayor added that the training of young rebels was a clear violation of Protocol II of the Geneva Convention of International Humanitarian Law.

Unidentified Gunman Kills Ramos Supporter

HK3003054492 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 2200 GMT 29 Mar 92

[Text] Tension is mounting in Candon, Ilocos Sur, following the assassination of a LAKAS-EDSA-NUCD [Epifanio de los Santos Avenue Strength-National Union of Christian Democrats] campaign leader on 29 March. The victim was identified as Ramon Calindas, a businessman and LAKAS-EDSA-NUCD gubernatorial candidate Beth Yeng Abaya's campaign leader. He was shot in front of his house by an unidentified gunman. Calindas sustained seven bullet wounds and was declared dead on arrival at Lorma Hospital in San Fernando, La Union. He is the third supporter of LAKAS-EDSA-NUCD coalition standard bearer Fidel Ramos to be killed during this campaign.

According to Ramos, Calindas' assassination is a clear attempt to demoralize the candidates of his party.

In connection with Calindas' assassination, Ramos called on all law enforcement agencies to strictly enforce the gun ban. He also asked the Commission on Elections to place under its control the province of Ilocos Sur and other election hot spots in order to curb election-related violence. He has also asked the Philippine National Police to immediately arrest those responsible for Calindas' murder and give protection to the witnesses of the murder, including Calindas' family.

Thailand

Prime Minister-Elect Condemns Drug Allegation

BK2703173492 Bangkok Army Television Channel 5 in Thai 1230 GMT 27 Mar92

[Text] About 100 Thai and foreign news correspondents were at the headquarters of the Samakkhi Tham Party on the morning of 27 March waiting for party leader Narong Wongwan to show up for an explanation after the U.S. State Department spokesman announced during a news conference on 26 March that Narong Wongwan had been denied an entry visa into the United States. Narong arrived at party headquarters in the afternoon. It was announced earlier by the Samakkhi Tham Party spokesman, Suchat Tancharoan, that a news conference would be held on 27 March by the party leader.

Narong arrived at the party headquarters around 1600 accompanied by party members. He read a statement rejecting the allegation by the U.S. Government, which he said was an unsubstantiated accusation, constituting a violation of human rights and an interference in the internal affairs of the Thai political party. He completely denied the allegation, saying that he would like the U.S.

Government to pass on to the appropriate authorities in Thailand any evidence, so that actions could be taken against him.

[Begin recording in progress] [Narong] ...leader of the Samakkhi Tham Party, the political party which has won the highest number of seats in parliament. I stand here before you today because I understand the seriousness of the allegation made against me by the United States. I understand the concern of the Thai public after hearing such an allegation against the person who is supposed to become a leader in their country. I want to explain to the Thai public that the allegation against me was unsubstantiated and did not conform to the ethics a civilized country should have. It reflects an intention to interfere in our country's internal political affairs. This follows earlier attempts at economic interference made by the United States through several measures.

I, Narong Wongwan, leader of the Samakkhi Tham Party, hereby completely deny the allegation—my family and I have never been involved in or been accomplices in any kind of drug trafficking. I want to confirm that my family and I are innocent. The U.S. reports and statements are utterly groundless.

I feel sorry for the United States, which is known for its respect for the rights of others and respect for the principle of the innocence of suspects unless they are proven guilty. The United States did the opposite concerning my case, despite the fact that I always stand ready to prove myself and publicize the truth, no matter when, where, and for whom. I am always ready to do this. Police General Phao Sarasin, deputy prime minister, former police director general, and former secretary general of the Office of the Narcotics Control Board; and Police General Chaowalit Yotmani, who is directly in charge of Thailand's narcotics suppression, have already acknowledged my innocence. Still, I would like to take this opportunity to explain to the Thai public and mass media once again that, should it have any evidence against me, the U.S. Government should submit such evidence to the Thai Government and agencies concerned.

I remind the general public to bear in mind that, from now on, a Thai leader who has correctly gone through an election process under a democratic system can become a victim of such damaging allegations without any evidence being brought to bear. Whether or not I become prime minister, on behalf of the Thai people and political leaders who have reached their positions through democratic means, I have a sacred duty to protect the honor and pride of the Thai people and the good name of my family, well-known for over 200 years. This issue concerns not only my private honor, but also that of Thailand. If a foreign country is allowed to interfere in Thailand's internal affairs in such an untruthful manner, and if it succeeds, Thailand's independence and honor will end completely. [end recording]

After finishing the statement, Narong Wongwan refused to answer questions. Before leaving party headquarters, he told reporters that he is ready to face prosecution if the U.S. Government has evidence against him.

Further on Denial, Ready for Office

BK2903070492 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 29 Mar 92 pp 1, 3

[Text] Prime Minister-Designate Narong Wongwan yesterday said he had no need to engage in narcotics trafficking because he already had "enormous wealth" which his family would never be able to spend in their lifetime.

He denied the drug link allegations, saying his family had made their fortune from "honest business dealings."

"I can make a vast fortune from honest business. So it is therefore unnecessary for me to risk everything I have worked for by trafficking in drugs. It is also unnecessary for me to enter politics in order to acquire further advantages to support my family," the Samakkhi Tha Party leader said.

He said the first Wongwan generation had initiated a logging business in the North, and during his time, he had seen the business change to tobacco-curing and later to a tobacco exporting company.

"My family and I have so much money that we would not be able to spend it all in our life time—even if we live in luxury," Mr Narong said in defending against the allegation.

We have been dealing in honest business all along. My business partners here in the country and elsewhere are also honest people," Mr Narong insisted.

The United States has publicly stated that it declined a visa for Mr Narong to enter the US in July 1991. The American government and its Drug Enforcement Administration would not elaborate on the statement.

Mr Narong has challenged the US Government to explain why the visa application was turned down. The American government so far would only say it stood by its earlier statement.

Mr Narong said any suspicion that he is involved in heroin or marijuana trafficking was totally groundless. He said anyone can make allegations against another person, particularly when no evidence or proof is presented.

"I would never say anything bad about other people unless I had clear evidence against them," Mr Narong said.

Mr Narong said he had been in politics since 1979 during which time he has been in both the government and the opposition.

"My reputation has never been tarnished throughout my entire political career. If I was so bad I would never have got this far," he insisted.

Mr Narong accused the United State of interfering in Thailand's internal affairs. He reiterated that if the US Government has evidence it should hand it over to the Thai government.

He said that the allegation is aimed at discrediting him. It was a political game against his nomination for the prime minister position. He did not say what the US had to gain by such a move.

Mr Narong said that it is his duty as leader of the political party which won the most number of seats to form the new government.

He admitted having favoured Gen Suchinda Khraprayun to take the post of prime minister because the Constitution says that a non-elected MP can be prime minister.

"I said that because Gen Suchinda is one of the most suitable people," Mr Narong said.

However, he compared present circumstances to the situation in 1988 when Chat Thai Party won the most seats in the general election.

He recalled that the Chat Thai leader at that time, Gen Chatchai Chunhawan, also spoke in favour of a neutral person, Gen Prem Tinsulanon, to take over the premiership.

However, after Gen Prem refused to accept the position, Gen Chatchai, as the leader of the largest party, had to take responsibility to form the coalition government.

"Gen Suchinda had declined to accept the position and it is then my duty as the leader of the most popular party to take the post," Mr Narong said.

Asked if he would be a real prime minister or a puppet acting for someone else, Mr Narong responded:

"It is true that I will be a puppet. But the question is who is the operator? I think the operator will be the people."

Mr Narong said that he is ready to head the coalition government because of his long parliamentary expericence.

"I have never been eager to be prime minister. But being a politician and as a leader of a political party, one must be ready to take responsibility for any important political post. And I'm ready," Mr Narong said.

Anan: U.S. Charges Not Considered Interference

BK2903144692 Bangkok Army Television Channel 5 in Thai 1230 GMT 29 Mar 92

[Text] During a royally-sponsored wedding party for [Thai boxer] Khaosai Galaxy and Yumiko Ohta, Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun said that the United States is entitled to cite Narong Wongwan's alleged involvement in drug trafficking, which Anan believes should not be considered interference in Thailand's politics.

[Begin recording] [Anan] Under its laws, the United States has the right to grant or deny a visa for any particular individual. Such action is in line with U.S. law. I am confident that the United States has no intention to interfere in Thailand's internal affairs.

[Unidentified correspondent] But there was an impact on Thailand's reputation. Does the Foreign Ministry have to...?

[Anan, interrupting] When correspondents asked them [U.S. officials] about this issue, they had to provide details. In his interview, Narong himself had strongly denied the allegations to support his innocence. [end recording]

Lawsuit Planned Against U.S. State Department

BK2903034292 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 0000 GMT 29 Mar 92

[Text] Suchat Tancharoen, Samakkhi Tham Party spokesman, said that the party will file a lawsuit against the U.S. State Department spokesperson if the United States fails to verify its allegation against prime minister-designate Narong Wongwan, following the latter's request.

[Begin recording, in progress] [Suchat] ...It would show that the United States has made a groundless allegation without evidence. That is why it does not dare reveal evidence or facts. After internal consultations, the party plans to assign the party leader to carry out further actions to file a lawsuit against the United States, especially the U.S. State Department spokesperson, who gave a press interview on this issue.

[Unidentified reporter] Since the allegation affects an individual's reputation, do you think that Narong would gain backing from the public?

[Suchat] Certainly, the public would sympathize with him, because it is a groundless accusation without any evidence. The public would understand, because the accusation was made at a time when we were going to form a government, and it gave no details. Even in a recent interview with reporters in the United States, Margaret Tutweiler did not give any details on the issue of involvement in the narcotics trade. I do not know whether the suspicion is based on facts or just a groundless allegation. In the case of Mr. Narong, it was suspicion without any evidence. It was a groundless accusation. Therefore it is a very improper action. [end recording]

Pro-Narong Rally Planned at U.S. Embassy

BK3003023892 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 30 Mar 92 p 1

[Text] Some 30 buses have been chartered to carry about 2,000 supporters of Samakkhi Tham Party [STP] leader Narong Wongwan from his home town province of Phrae and Chiang Mai to rally in front of the US Embassy in Bangkok and at the US Consular Office in Chiang Mai this morning, an authoritative source said last night.

They will demand the United States supplies evidence to back what they described as America's "accusations" against the STP leader.

The move came as the Student Federation of Thailand (SFT) called on Mr Narong to clear himself of the alleged drug links by allowing himself to be censured by the House of Representatives during the televised parliamentary session this week.

Parliament will be officially opened by His Majesty the King on Thursday.

The SFT adopted the resolution yesterday at a Thammasat University meeting attended by representatives from 11 university student councils and six other student splinter groups.

SFT Secretary-General Parinya Thewanarumitkun said that if Mr Narong failed to clear his name to the satisfaction of the House, then he should refuse the premiership.

He also suggested that the House censure should be televised live nationwide so that the public could watch the performance of both the prime minister-nominee and the MPs.

He said the House is a neutral body and should be given the task to censure and evaluate Mr Narong.

Parinya said the SFT concurred that the drug controversy surrounding Mr Narong was a problem concerning an individual, not the system.

The SFT leader maintained that student organisations would not interfere in the selection of the prime minister and the formation of the government.

But he admitted the SFT was afraid that under the present murky situation, some outsiders might seize the opportunity to influence the selection process by putting pressure on the coalition parties or by making use of the military-dominated Senate.

If that happens, he warned, the SFT would immediately organise a protest.

Parinya said the SFT suspected there may be problems at the beginning of the House session which could lead to an "outsider" being nominated prime minister.

The SFT also called on the National Peace-keeping Council [NPKC] and all its members to refrain from meddling in the selection of the premier and the formation of the government.

The SFT, said Parinya, agreed that no non-MP should be invited into the government.

"If there are any non-MPs in the Cabinet, it would mean that the government is not independent and submissive to the NPKC,' he explained.

The student organisation also urged all pro-democracy political parties to push for constitutional amendments at the first opportunity they have in the Parliament.

"The students will join the cause by mobilising support across the country," said Parinya.

Talking to reporters at his house in Bangkok Mr Narong said he would send another letter to US President George Bush and Secretary of State James Baker seeking clarification over his alleged drug links if there was no reply to his first letter.

STP deputy leader Phinit Chansurin yesterday dismissed reports that the party was considering a lawsuit against the US government, particularly State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutweiler.

"We do not intend to make it a big deal, we want only justice," said Phinit, adding the US owes Thailand a clarification.

He said he didn't regard the refusal of entry visa to an individual by a government a serious matter.

He said in Thailand a junior immigration officer could bar a foreigner from entering the country if the foreigner is under suspicion without having to seek an approval from the police chief.

About 2,000 Gather

BK3003033292 Bangkok Army Television Channel 7 in Thai 0240 GMT 30 Mar 92

[Text] This morning, about 2,000 people from various provinces in the upper northern part of Thailand, who traveled in a caravan of 36 buses to Bangkok, gathered inside the Lumphini Park.

From there they were going to march to the U.S. Embassy to submit a letter to U.S. President George Bush through the embassy to request the United States to clarify its allegations about Mr. Narong Wongwan's involvement in narcotics trade.

During the rally, more than 200 policemen from the Pathumwan Police Station and other stations nearby were on duty to control the situation in which no violence has occurred.

The embassy was still regularly giving services to the people applying for visas.

Letter Submitted to President Bush

BK3003061892 Bangkok Army Television Channel 7 in Thai 0455 GMT 30 Mar 92

[Text] A group of northerners who staged a rally in protest against the United States on its allegations about Mr. Narong Wongwan's involvement in narcotics trade has submitted a letter to U.S. President George Bush.

The group of people from northern Thailand, who made a trip to the U.S. Embassy in Bangkok to protest the U.S.

statement that Narong is involved in narcotics, assembled on the sidewalk opposite the embassy. Representatives of the group spoke through loudspeakers opposing the U.S. action. A politician from the northern province of Phrae submitted the letter to the U.S. ambassador to Thailand to be forwarded to President Bush. The letter was received by hand by an embassy official in charge of political affairs.

The letter states that the U.S. action is a political stain and urges the United States to speedily reveal evidence for the allegations. The rally group also called on the United States to act quickly on this issue.

After that, the group returned to gather one more time inside Lumphini Park where they had assembled in the morning.

Narong on Rally, Politics

BK3003104892 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 0900 GMT 30 Mar 92

[Text] Narong Wongwan, leader of the Samakkhi Tham Party, said during an interview with newsmen at the party headquarters this afternoon that he felt uneasy about the rally in front of the U.S. Embassy and Lumphini Park this morning. He said that he had learned since last night about the plan by a group of people from Chiang Rai to rally at the U.S. Embassy in protest against the U.S. allegation against him. He had told the people not to come since it would be a waste of time and money, and that there also might be a risk of accident for them. He also warned the people that the situation could be complicated should the incident be exploited by a third party.

Concerning an answer from the United States, Narong said he did not know how many days it would take the United States to answer him. But he said the people rallying at the embassy this morning told him that the United States promised an answer before 2 April. The leader of the Samakkhi Tham Party added that he would not have won the elections to parliament five or six times should he really be involved in the narcotics trade. He said he has all kinds of businesses in the country and did not need to depend on an illegal business.

Asked about a report on an attempt to buy MP votes for choosing a prime minister, the leader of the Samakkhi Tham Party said such a move is undemocratic and not correct. If this were true, the buyer would become known. Asked about the formation of the government, he said the five parties are holding discussions among themselves without getting the military involved. There has been no discussion on asking other persons to join the alliance, since this is not easy. In conclusion, the leader of the Samakkhi Tham Party said that we will have to wait until things became clearer in order to assess the rationale behind the situation.

Sunthon, NPKC Differ Over Narong

BK2803012592 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 28 Mar 92 pp 1, 3

[Text] National Peace-keeping Council [NPKC] chairman Gen Sunthon Khongsomphong yesterday appeared on a collision course with other top council members over the nomination of Samakkhi Tham Party leader Narong Wongwan as prime minister.

Although the military top brass, including Supreme Commander Gen Suchinda Khraprayun, Air Force Commander-in-Chief ACM Kaset Rotchananin and Deputy Army Commander-in-Chief Gen Itsaraphong Nunphakdi who are also NPKC vice chairmen, support Narong, Gen Sunthon said last night he still found the STP leader not qualified for the premiership because of the druglinked allegations against him.

"I cannot say much now except that to offer my sympathy to Khun Narong because we know each other well," Gen Sunthon told reporters at a party last night to commemorate the Air Force's 77th anniversary.

He said he had to be cautious in considering the prime minister-designate before submitting his name to His Majesty the King.

As NPKC chairman, Gen Sunthon is empowered by the provisional clause of the Constitution to countersign the Royal Commander appointing the prime minister.

Asked about the PM-nominee, Gen Sunthon said he still stands by his words.

He declined further comment, saying it was inappropriate to say too much.

The NPKC chairman maintained that he would like to wait until the House Speaker, yet to be elected, makes his choice of prime minister and then consider the nomination.

But the general said he would not submit for Royal approval a PM nominee that may put His Majesty in a difficult situation.

Air Force chief ACM Kaset said yesterday that the ongoing attempt by political parties to form a government is Thailand's affair and other countries should not interfere.

He was referring to the State Department confirmation on Wednesday that Narong Wongwan, nominated by the pro-military Samakkhi Tham, Chat Thai Social Action, Prachakon Thai and Ratsadon parties, had been denied an entry visa to the US because of possible links to drug trafficking.

He said: "The formation of a government is our internal affair. How can other countries interfere? It is the responsibility of the concerned parties and the House of Representatives to nominate a premier."

He added that the US State Department spokes-woman had not provided any evidence to support the accusation, and the Thai Government had never been informed to that effect.

"Deputy Prime Minister Phao Sarasin and secretary-general of the Office of narcotics Control Board (Pol Gen Chawalit Yotmani) have said there is nothing against Mr Narong in their records. Personally, I think the accusation will have no effect on Mr Narong," he said.

The choice of Mr Narong by the five parties is democratic and in accordance with the parlimentary system, he said.

Asked if the choice of Mr Narong as prime minister would ruin the country's image, ACM Kaset said:

"I think we should let Mr Narong be prime minister first and see how other countries react."

So far there has been no opposition from other countries, ACM Kaset said.

ACM Kaset said he and Supreme Commander Gen Suchinda Khraprayun refused to accept the premiership because "we realise that in a democracy it is political parties that should form the government".

He said that except for Gen Sunthon other members of the National Peace-Keeping Council have returned to their original assignments.

Deputy Air Force Chief ACM Anan Kalintha said everything is now in line with democratic principles and the NPKC has not interfered in the formation of the new government.

ACM Anan, tipped for a Cabinet post in the new government, said he did not know if any of the NPKC members would be named to the Cabinet.

He urged the leaders of political parties to "turn to each other and reach a consensus by keeping in mind the country's interests".

ACM Anan declined to comment when asked whether Chat Thai Party leader ACM Sombun Rahong is a suitable candidate for prime minister.

Meanwhile, Deputy Army Chief Gen Itsaraphong Nunphakdi said Thailand's process of selecting a prime minister has nothing to do with other countries.

Political parties should be given a chance to make their choice, he said.

He denied that it was the military that caused the political parties to split into two blocs.

National Security Council secretary-general Gen Charan Kunlawanit speaking of Mr Narong's predicatment said:

"It is the right of one country to deny or not deny a visa to anyone without having to give reason."

"Those blacklisted or with a bad record can be denied entry. In Mr Narong's case, the ONCB should seek information from the US," he said.

"However, Deputy Prime Minister Phao Sarasin has said he (Mr Narong) has never had a narcotics-trafficking record," Gen Charan said.

Air Force Assistant Chief-of-Staff AM [Air Marshal] Wiraphong Singsaneh shared the same opinion as ACM Kaset.

"Personally I do not know that Mr Narong has been blacklisted by the US. Since there is no evidence against him, I support him for the post. But if the accusation was true the matter would require high-level consultations," he said.

AM Wiraphong said he did not understand why the US had not said anything about Mr Narong before.

In case Mr Narong does not qualify, AM Wiraphong said the leader of one of other parties in the STP-led bloc should be nominated for the PM post instead.

Remark on Narong 'Unfair'

BK2903023292 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 29 Mar 92 pp 1, 3

[Text] Samakkhi Tham Party deputy leader Athit Urairat yesterday urged National Peace-keeping Council [NPKC] chairman Gen Sunthon Khongsomphong to ensure justice and fairness for his embattled party leader Narong Wongwan following allegations of drug links.

Meanwhile last night, Air Force Chief-of-Staff ACM [Air Chief Marshal] Suthep Theppharak called on prime minister-designate Mr Narong to clear his name before deciding to accept or refuse the post.

Dr Athit said the statement by Gen Sunthon to the Press Friday night that Mr Narong was not qualified for the premiership because he could not clear himself of the alleged drug links was very unfair to the STP, particularly to Mr Narong himself

As NPKC chairman who is bound by the Constitution to countersign the appointment of the prime minister, Dr Athit said Gen Sunthon should not quickly jump to any conclusions about Mr Narong.

Gen Sunthon should respect the principles of democracy and let the leader of the party who has the support of the majority of the MPs in the Parliament become prime minister, said the deputy STP leader.

He suggested that the NPKC chairman consult the House Speaker who according to the charter has to sound out the opinion of the MPs on the choice of prime minister-nominee.

Dr Athit explained that the letter sent Friday to President George Bush and Secretary of State James Baker by Mr Narong was meant to tell the US leadership that the allegations against him were groundless.

"The US is famous for its respect for individual rights and freedom. I hope the letter will help create better understanding," he said.

The letter claimed that the accusations against the premier-designate were unfounded and challenged the US to back the allegations with evidence. Mr Narong said his reputation has been tarnished and the controversy has jeopardised his chances of leading the coalition government.

Charging that the controversy was meant to discredit the STP leader, Dr Athit said the party expects to get an official reply from the Bush Administration soon to clear the air of misunderstanding.

He stressed that the STP-led alliance which comprises Chat Thai, Social Action, Prachakon Thai and Ratsadon parties remains solid despite the controversy.

This was reaffirmed yesterday by Chat Thai leader ACM Sombun Rahong who said "the five parties will stick together because they are bound by a gentlemen's agreement to set up a coalition government."

He ruled out the possibility of New Aspiration Party drawing away any of the five parties into its wing in order to form an alternative government.

Talking to reporters in Chiang Mai, ACM Suthep suggested that Gen Sunthon and the new House Speaker, who is yet to be appointed, jointly consider the choice of prime minister-nominee and submit the name to His Majesty the King for approval.

He said it will take some time before a new government can be put in place.

After Mr Narong, ACM Suthep said, Chat Thai leader ACM Sombun is next in line of succession, but he has already declined the post.

He disclosed that the name of Prachakon Thai leader Samak Suntharawet was also mentioned, but it was eventually dropped because the party won very few seats.

Asked about his prospect of being named the House Speaker, Dr Athit said he would be happy to accept the post if the majority of the MPs supported him.

A part source, meanwhile, said another MP, Phinit Chantharasurin of Lampang, may also be nominated as Speaker.

STP spokesman Suchat Tancharoen said yesterday two more parties would be invited to join the STP-led alliance.

Mr Suchat, an MP from Chachoengsao, insisted that despite the drug link allegations against Mr Narong, the Samakkhi Tham Party will press ahead with the task of forming a government.

He refused to name the two parties that will be invited to join the coalition.

He expected the new government to be formed seven to 10 days after the convening of the Parliament.

Chat Thai Leader Sole Replacement for Narong

BK2803022392 Bangkok THE NATION in English 28 Mar 92 p A8

[Editorial: "Public Scrutiny of Narong a Good Sign"]

[Text] With the ascension of Samakkhi Tham party leader Narong Wongwan to the premiership in jeopardy, the pro-military coalition of five parties has to look for an alternative. Chat Thai leader ACM [Air Chief Marshal] Sombun Rahong is its only choice if—and this is a big if—this coalition sticks together until the House convenes its first meeting early next month.

Narong was the coalition's first choice because he had the tacit approval of the Army. But Narong was seriously discredited when it was made public that the United States had suspicions on that he was involved in international drug trafficking. Narong's application for a US visa was rejected last July because of these suspicions, and Wednesday's confirmation of the visa rejection by the US State Department kicked up a furor. It also drew sharp responses from Narong and his men, who denounced the US statement as an intervention in Thai internal affairs and constitutional process.

Sombun has strong backing from his party's secretary-general, Banhan Sinlapa-acha. He has close ties to key men in Samakkhi Tham, and he took part in forming the party before he was offered the top post in Chat Thai. More importantly, he is a close friend of air force chief ACM Kaset Rotchananin and is also on good terms with army chief Gen Suchinda Khraprayun.

Sombun is a master of compromise. He is famous for his ability to resolve sticky disputes and close difficult deals discreetly. His presence in Chat Thai make coup leaders on the National Peacekeeping Council (NPKC) less distrustful of the party whose previous leader, deposed premier Gen Chatchai Chunhawan, was ousted in the coup on Feb 23, 1991.

It's possible that the top brass would be quite willing to let Chat Thai be in the new government and Sombun be the new premier. To many military leaders, Sombun is a preferable choice over ex-army chief Gen Chawalit Yongchaiyut, leader of the New Aspiration Party. Chawalit, who stepped down as both army chief and supreme commander in April 1990 to enter parliamentary politics, still has some followers inside the military. Military leaders on the NPKC are concerned that as premier, Chawalit might try to rebuild his power base in the military and re-arrange the power succession that they have painstakingly planned.

Sombun, nevertheless, faces a strong challenge by Chawalit, whose party came third in Sunday's polls, with 72 House seats, trailing only Samakkhi Tham (79 seats) and Chat Thai (74 seats). Sombun has yet to run the gauntlet that has bogged down Narong. What the public will see once Sombun is scrutinized under the political spotlight is not yet known. If Sombun also fails the public scrutiny, Chawalit stands next in line to go for the premiership.

If Sombun passes the test with flying colours, he faces yet another hurdle: how to deal with the three heavyweights—chief adviser Gen Praman Adireksan, deputy leaders Sanoh Thienthong, and Watthana Atsawahem—who are appealing the confiscation of their assets in court. The three were ruled by the NPKC-appointed assets investigation committee as having accumulated "unusual wealth" while in power in the Chatchai administration. Making them ministers could tarnish the image of the new government and set it up for a no-confidence debate in Parliament.

Publicly Chat Thai maintains that all those ruled "unusually wealthy" were not guilty of anything and thus they can hold Cabinet posts if they so desire as long as their appeals against the confiscation of their assets are pending in court. And the party will undoubtedly seek the chief post at the Justice Ministry, for obvious reasons.

Even besides Narong's problems with the US over the drug trafficking allegations, the presence of five "unusually wealthy" senior politicians (Praman, Sanoh, Watthana, Samakkhi Tham's Pramuan Saphawasu and Social Action leader Montri Phongphanit) is a key weakness for the Samakkhi Tham-led coalition. But excluding them from the new Cabinet would break up the coalition, and appointing them to insignificant ministerial portfolios would create dissent.

These weaknesses are being capitalized on by Chawalit and his friend and ally Gen Sunthon Khongsomphong, the titular chairman of the NPKC.

The continuing confusion over the nomination of a new prime minister is rather unfortunate. But the brighter side of this is that the active public role in the secrutiny of Narong could deter those with questionable backgrounds from vying for the premiership. What we see is perhaps a new Thai political tradition in the making... an informal confirmation of a would be prime minister by the public.

This is a healthy sign that Thai parliamentary democracy—contrary to all the rumours and cynicism—is still alive and functioning.

Daily Says No Prime Minister in Sight

BK2903032892 Bangkok THE NATION in English 29 Mar 92 p A1

[Text] One week after the election, four party leaders are still in with a chance of becoming the next prime minister as the present spell of uncertainty—marked by the bi-polar conflict between the military and Gen Chawalit Yongchaiyut—shows no sign of abating.

The race is still wide open following the allegations raised against Samakkhi Tham Party leader Narong Wongwan shortly after his nomination was put forward last Tuesday.

The front runners are Narong, who has the most support in the House with 79 MPs, ACM [Air Chief Marshal] Sombun Rahong, the leader of the second biggest party, Chat Thai, with 74 seats, and New Aspiration [NAP] leader Chawalit, whose party has 72 MPs.

Chuan Likphai, whose Democrat Party is the fourth biggest with 44 MPs, also stands a chance—though it is dim because his party is ranked at the middle level.

Yet because of his party's careful positioning in the military-NAP conflict, Chuan can emerge as a compromise.

Ironically, the sudden retreat by military leaders from the negotiations to form the next government has made the race for the premiership more unpredictable.

Supreme Commander Gen Suchinda Khraprayun's abrupt refusal to nominate despite earlier intense speculation, has created a vacuum in the competition.

Many saw Suchinda's backdown as a move to prevent being attacked by students and academics while earning himself some credit for refusing to head a coalition with "unusually rich" Cabinet members.

Air Force Commander in Chief ACM Kaset Rotchananin, earlier tipped to be the military's second choice after Suchinda, followed the Supreme Commander's lead to avert a showdown which could have cost him dearly.

The two junta leaders are obviously aware that the degree of public backlash would be far more than expected.

Key Junta leaders have also lost credibility in the eyes of the public due to their failure to record any meaningful achievement following last year's coup, their intervention in civilian politics, and their perceived intention to hold on to power at all costs.

However critics see Suchinda's condition that the politicians ruled guilty by the Assets Examination Committee be barred from Cabinet as a move to strengthen his personal prestige.

The failure of the prospective coalition partners to agree on an elected nominee as premier could bring Suchinda back on to the scene, analysts theorize.

In the absence of the generals as potential candidates for the premiership, the rivalry for the country's chief executive position remains polarized.

Whoever would win, the situation would still be far from resolved. The long-term stability of the next government would also come under serious question as a result of the continuing power struggle.

The odds are also higher that the next government would be only an interim one, pending fundamental changes to the polarized situation.

Now that Suchinda and Kaset are out of the race, at least for the moment, the leaders of the four political parties—Samakkhi Tham, Chat Thai, NAP and Democrat—are the only prospective candidates for the premiership.

Needless to say, Phalang Tham Party leader Maj Gen Chamlong Simuang is definitely not in the running because of the party's low number of seats (41) and his strong anti-military stance.

There is also the fear that his party may score a big win in the next poll and that is likely to stiffen resistance to his push for the top slot.

While each of the four candidates have political assets, they also have flaws and face obstacles.

Narong has been seriously damaged by the allegations of his involvement in drug trafficking—an allegation that also threatens to strain relations between Washington and the Thai military leaders who support a Samakkhi Tham-led coalition.

He is now on the verge of abandonding his bid despite his vow to fight it out as the odds against him are enormous.

Sombun is emerging as a strong candidate if Narong drops out, as he appears to be the main contender to saving the political alliance which had actually been forged even before last Sunday's general election (the alliance increased to five with the recent joining of the four-MP Ratsadon Party, bringing the alliance's majority from 11 to 15).

The other two partners are Social Action led by Montri Phongphanit, and Prachakon Thai which gained only seven House seats after its stunning defeat at the hands of the Phalang Tham.

Yet Sombun too has political liabilities. He lacks the reputation of a clean politician with an acceptable degree of integrity.

Some of his political adversaries may be tempted to look at what he left behind at the Airports Authority of Thailand, of which he was the governor before entering politics.

Though appearing a better choice than Narong, his Chat Thai Party is also polarized. Sombun, and powerful party secretary General Banhan Sinlapa-acha, have close military links, while such Ratchakhr members as the party's advisory chairman Pol Gen Praman Adireksan and former MP's Office minister Kon Thappharangsi have established links with the NAP leader.

Deputy party leader Sano Thianthong has so far sided with the more powerful wing led by Sombun and Banhan. At this stage, Chat Thai is believed to be pushing behind-the-scenes for Narong's withdrawal following the scandal.

If Sombun wins, he would be widely seen as a "stand-in" prime minister, ready to step down before the four-year term expires due to his marked lack of charisma and clout among fellow politicians.

Chawalit's chance, meanwhile, seems to hinge on the posibility of a break-up of the Samakkhi Tham-Chat Thai partnership and his attractive offer for the latter to take control of all key ministries except the premiership.

In that case, a temporary compromise between him and the military may be necessary. Yet army sources said the possibility for such a compromise was very low.

If Chawalit does indeed succeed, with or without a compromise with the military, a political stand-off is discernible.

Relations between his government and the military would result in political jitters in the weeks and perhaps months to come.

If Sombun fails to bar Chawalit's advance, then Chuan would be seen as the last choice. His chance of succeeding is conceivable in such a scenario if Chat Thai springs a surprise by swinging to the side of NAP.

But the pro-military Samakkhi Tham's bargaining power would dwindle sharply as a result, forcing it to make the best offer to the Democrat Party.

In this case, the Democrat-Samakkhi Tham alliance must be cemented by the defection of Phalang Tham to its side.

But such a scenario is still unlikely at this stage.

Chat Thai siding with NAP is as difficult to imagine as Phalang Tham breaking with NAP, its closest ally now.

It is still uncertain when a prime minister will be picked.

But it will not be finalized before the election of the new speaker by the House on Friday.

Vietnam

MIA Remains Returned to U.S. Representatives

BK2703144992 Hanoi VNA in English 1406 GMT 27 Mar 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 27—Representatives of the Vietnam office in search of missing servicemen today returned six remains of American servicemen missing in action and their belongings, which had been collected recently during the Vietnamese side's unilateral search and Vietnamese-U.S. joint search, to the representatives of the U.S. Joint Casualty Resolution Center.

Since March 1974, Vietnam has on 36 occasions returned 464 remains of American MIAs to the U.S. side.

Hanoi Looks at 'Fragile' State of CIS

BK2703074292 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 26 Mar 92

[Station commentary]

[Text] The Commonwealth of Independent States is undergoing a very tense and complicated situation. Former Soviet president, Mr Gorbachev, still held that the situation of the CIS will be (?overrated) and [word indistinct].

In fact not only Mr Gorbachev is worried about the CIS situation, for the newspaper RED STAR on 21 March said the world is more concerned about the CIS' future than its own politicians. The remark is rather precise because until now gunfire is still heard in Nagorno-Karabakh, and Azerbaijan and Armenia are still in tension. Civilians are the victims of the tension. The conflict early this week between these forces caused considerable losses to the local people.

Meanwhile, some political forces in Siberia have demanded to turn Siberia into an independent republic and the Russian people have lost their confidence in the government. At present some 60 percent of the people in Moscow lost confidence in the Russian Supreme Soviet. Moreover, there appeared dispute among the CIS armed forces. Chief of the General Staff of the united armed forces of the CIS, Mr Shaposhnikov, admitted that the existence of the united armed forces is out of date. He also disclosed that at a meeting of state leaders of CIS in Kiev on 20 March, Ukraine supported the idea to withdraw nuclear weapons under strict control. There remain great differences about the question of the Black Sea Fleet.

These evidences show that the CIS' future is very fragile and nobody could predict where this situation would lead to.

Vo Chi Cong Report to National Assembly

Part 3

BK2703135592 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 25 Mar 92

["Third part" of a report delivered by Council of State Chairman Vo Chi Cong at the 24 March opening meeting of Eighth National Assembly's 11th Session in Hanoi on "the fourth draft of amendments to the 1980 Constitution"—read by announcer]

[Text] D. Regarding the name of Chapter 3 which reads: culture, education, science and technology; the word technology was replaced by the word industry. All 13 articles in this chapter were changed to help institutionalize lines and policies set by the Seventh CPV [Communist Party of Vietnam] Congress and other documents of the party. The following are the most noteworthy points.

The part dealing with characteristics of our modern national culture and tradition in Article 30 should read: The state develops the people's capability and creativity; succeeds and develops precious values of the Vietnamese civilization as well as Ho Chi Minh's thought, ethics, style, and the fine tradition of the Vietnamese community; and absorbs the quintessence of world culture. In the part dealing with the multisectorial economy, the constitution amendment committee proposes that it should not read: efforts must be made to oppose feudalistic and bourgeois concepts and the influence of imperialist and colonialist culture, as well as to criticize obsolete petty bourgeoisie; it should instead read: efforts must be made to oppose decadent and reactionary culture and concepts, as well as to combat superstitions.

Article 32: Literature and art must contribute to fostering the dignity and lofty feelings of the Vietnamese people. Encouragement is given to the development of cultural activities of the state, collectives, and individuals, as well as to promoting the literary and artistic activities of the masses. Efforts must be made to expand cultural and artistic exchanges and cooperation with countries in the world.

Article 35: The objective of education is to enhance the people's intellectual standards, train manpower, and foster men of talent to meet the requirements of the cause of national construction and defense.

Article 36: The state uniformly manages the national education system in terms of objectives, curriculum, contents, and programs; defines teachers' standards, formulates examination regulations, and designs certificates. The national education system is composed of state-run and privately-run schools with different forms of training and teaching. The state implements priority policy on developing education in the mountain regions and areas of ethnic minorities.

Article 37: The state formulates and implements a national policy on science and industry, harmoniously develops the various branches of sciences, namely natural and social sciences and technology.

Article 39: The state has sole responsibility for the protection of the people's health, and creates conditions for all citizens to have access to medical care.

Article 40: The state, society, families, and citizens have the duty to provide protection and care to mothers and children and to implement the family planning program.

E. Regarding the name of Chapter 4 which reads: Defense of the socialist fatherland; for the sake of clarity it was changed to: Defense of the Socialist Vietnamese Fatherland. All three articles in this chapter were revised, and one new article on maintaining national security and social order and safety was added to this chapter. Rewording of these articles was made to make them more rational. The following are the most noteworthy points:

Article 43: The duty of the armed forces in defending the socialist regime was added to this article.

Article 44: The passage reading: build the comprehensive and modern all-people national defense system; was changed to: build the all-people national defense system and a regular, increasingly modern, and well-trained revolutionary people's army, and build a powerful reservist and militia and self-defense force.

Article 45 is the new article dealing with the people's public security force.

Article 46: The following passage was added to this article: The state combines national defense with economic development, and looks after the material and spiritual living conditions of cadres and combatants. Not only state agencies, social organizations, and citizens are dutybound to carry out the national defense and security work, but economic agencies are also required to carry out this task.

F. Regarding Chapter 5, which deals with the fundamental rights and obligations of citizens: this chapter is composed of 34 articles; four of them were intact, 26 were revised, and four new articles were added. Rewording of some articles was made to make them more rational.

The purpose of the revision of this chapter is to give a better definition of the fundamental rights and obligations of citizens so as to develop the socialist democratic system, broaden democracy, and prevent attempts to take advantage of democratic rights to create political unstability. Regarding the definition of rights, the committee has taken into account the feasibility factor based on the practical conditions in the country. The following are the most noteworthy points:

—Our state highly values human resources, and human rights are clearly defined by the fundamental rights of citizens based on the trends of today's world. Article 48 has been added to this chapter to define human rights, and this new article precedes other articles on the fundamental rights and obligations of citizens.

—Regarding some old provisions on citizens' rights to work, have access to free education, and own houses specified under Articles 58, 60, 61, and 62, since they are no longer appropriate, the committee has revised those provisions to make them consistent with the actual situations at present and in subsequent years. The new changes have been reflected by Articles 53, 57, 59, and 60. Article 55, new, clearly defines citizens' rights to freely go about their businesses in accordance with law.

—Regarding citizens' rights to own the means of production, the limits set by the old Article 27 are very restricted, because only the means of production used to carry out approved individual production operations were permissible; this time the same right has been expanded and defined under Article 56, which includes the citizens' rights to own their means of production, capital, and other assets in businesses or in other economic organizations.

—Regarding the provision on citizens' rights to freely move around and establish residency, this time it has been expanded and included in Article 66 on citizens' rights to go abroad and return to the country as stipulated by law.

—Under the old Article 67, citizens have the rights to enjoy the freedom of speech and the press, hold meetings, establish associations, and stage demonstrations in the interests of socialism and the people. This time, this provision has been reworded for more clarity and conciseness under revised Article 67, which says that citizens have the rights to enjoy the freedom of speech and the press, have access to information, hold meetings, and stage demonstrations as stipulated by law.

—Regarding the freedom of faith, this time a supplement has been made to include revised Article 68, which defines that pagodas, temples, churches, sacred houses, and other public worship areas of the various religions are protected by the state; that religions are equal before the law; and that no one may violate the freedom of faith and religion or exploit faith and religion to act at variance with law and state policies.

—The following two new provisions have been added under revised Article 70 to ensure that citizens are inviolable corporeally: no one can be considered guilty and be punished until a verdict of the court has come into effect; and people who have been arrested, detained, and prosecuted and tried illegally are entitled to material indemnities and to a rehabilitation of public esteem.

People who act at variance with law and cause losses for others must be dealt with to the full extent of law.

These provisions do exist in the penal code, but are now included in the Constitution to become constitutional principles.

A new Article 80 has been added, considering the need to broaden relations with the outside world. Under this article, foreigners taking up residence in Vietnam must comply with Vietnam's Constitution and law and shall have their lives, property, and other legitimate rights protected by the state in accordance with Vietnamese law.

G. Regarding Chapter 6: The National Assembly.

Basically, there is no change in the provisions of the 1980 Constitution regarding the National Assembly's role and functions. Under Article 82, the National Assembly is the highest representative body of the people, the highest organ of state authority of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, and the sole body vested with constitutional and legislative rights. The National Assembly decides on fundamental domestic and foreign policies and on the main principles governing the organization and operations of the state apparatus, and exercises the right of supreme supervision over all activities of the state.

Article 82: The spirit of the amendments to the fourth draft is to continue dignifying the position of the National Assembly and creating favorable conditions for it to operate with efficiency, as well as to overcome formalism. The number of national assembly deputies should be reduced, but their quality should be improved. The National Assembly should step by step operate on a regular basis. A certain number of deputies in the various councils and committees of the National Assembly should perform their work on a full-time basis. The annual sessions of the National Assembly should be increased, and each session should take more days to allow deputies to discuss and decide on important tasks that are under their jurisdiction.

All councils and committees of the National Assembly, as well all deputies, should also be provided with increasingly sufficient work conditions, such as the supply of information, data, and other means.

The following are the most noteworthy revised points in the organizational structure and operational system of the National Assembly:

A. Regarding the duties and powers of the National Assembly, there are a number of supplementary points as follows:

—Decide on law and regulation drafting programs.
—Exercise the right of supreme supervision over the observance of national assembly resolutions.
—Examine reports on the activities of the state president and the national assembly standing committee.
—Decide on financial and monetary policies.
—Ratify the appointment of deputy prime ministers, cabinet ministers, and other members of the government on the recommendation of the prime minister.
—Decide on the merger, division, and establishment of various provinces and cities directly subordinate to the central government, and on the establishment or dissolution of special administrative- economic administrative units.
—Define the state of emergency and other special measures needed for ensuring national defense and security.
—Decide on the holding of referendums.

It is necessary to abrogate the last part—which says the National Assembly may define for itself other duties and powers when it deems it necessary to do so—to avoid a misunderstanding that the National Assembly is not bound by the constitution. In fact, in this case the National Assembly should make amendments and supplements to the articles concerned in the constitution.

Article 83: B. Regarding the duties of the National Assembly, it is now defined further that the National Assembly may, if approved by at least two-thirds of the total number of deputies, decide to shorten its term of office.

Article 84: C. At present, the National Assembly meets regularly twice a year. In the revised draft, it shall meet three times a year instead.

Article 85: D. Regarding initiative in drafting laws, in addition to the right to submit draft laws, there is now the right to submit suggestions concerning laws. National assembly deputies have the right to sudmit draft laws and submit suggestions concerning laws. This is a simpler form that may suit the specific conditions of national assembly deputies.

Article 86: E. Establish the standing committee of the National Assembly to serve as its permanent organ. The chairman of the National Assembly Standing Committee is the chairman of the National Assembly itself.

Article 89: The National Assembly Standing Committee is vested with 14 duties and powers, including the issuance of regulations on matters entrusted by the National Assembly.

New Article 90: G. Regarding the National Defense and Security Council, the Constitutional Amendment Committee is expected to change the present National Defense Council into the National Defense and Security Council, which is to be elected by the National Assembly and headed by the state president.

The duties and powers of the National Defense and Security Council are broader than those of the old National Defense Council. The National Defense and Security Council shall perform its work according to collective principles and vote by majority.

The Constitutional Amendment does agree with the suggestion that the National Defense Council be replaced by the National Defense and Security Committee. This is because it considers that the National Defense and Security Committee, with a position similar to that of the other committees of the National Assembly, cannot have the full authority to shoulder the heavy responsibilities of a council.

The Constitutional Amendmend Committee also would like to submit a second plan to the Natinal Assembly. That is the establishment by the National Assembly of a national defense and security committee, in addition to the National Defense and Security Council, with duties and powers similar to those of the other committees of the National Assembly as specified in the old Article 92.

H. Regarding the Council of Nationalities, revised Article 91 stipulates that the Council of Nationalities shall exercise the right to supervise the implementation of policies on nationalities, programs, and plans for socioeconomic development in the mountainous regions and areas inhabited by the ethnic minority groups.

Consultations with the Council of Nationalities must be sought before the enforcement of any decision by the government on policies concerning nationalities.

I. Regarding the various committees of the National Assembly, Article 92 stipulates an additional number of duties for these committees, such as studying and examining various suggestions concerning laws, and submitting to the National Assembly their views on matters related to organization and personnel that are under the jurisdiction of the National Assembly, in terms of consideration and decision.

K. [No reference to letter J as heard] Regarding national assembly deputies, the fourth draft stipulates an additional number of duties for national assembly deputies and requests that those who do not work on a full-time basis must set aside an essential amount of time to perform their duties as deputies. The draft also stipulates that all state agencies have the responsibility to furnish national assembly deputies with the necessary documents when asked to do so.

H. [Repeating letter H as heard] Chapter 7. In the third draft which was announced for the sake of public opinion, the Constitutional Amendment Committee outlined four options on a standing organ of the National Assembly and on the head of the state. The committee recommended the so-called Council of State and chairman of the Council of State option. However, many contributed opinions were in favor of the option of having a president and a national assembly standing committee. Perceiving the public's opinions, now the committee would like to present the option with a president and a national assembly standing committee as a main option. The committee also presents the option of having a council of state and a chairman of the council of state for the National Assembly for consideration and final decision.

1. The option of having a National Assembly standing committee and a president.

This is the option supported by many people and by majority of members of the Constitutional Amendment Committee. The reasonableness of this option lies in the clear definition of duties and authority of the head of the state, noted in new Article 112. These duties and authorities are different from those of a standing organ of the National Assembly, as noted in new Article 90. This option reveals a relative advantage over the unclear and overlapping points of the option of having a council of state and chairman of the Council of State. On the other hand, according to this option, the chairman of the National Assembly Standing Committee is also the chairman of the National Assembly, as noted in new Article 89. Therefore, the position and role of the chairman of the National Assembly is satisfactorily and reasonably defined. Moreover, the option on having a national assembly standing committee also mets the requirement that, in the future, all lawmaking functions must be vested in the National Assembly and the function of issuing regulations of the National Assembly Standing Committee only temporarily lasts in some National Assembly terms. Later on, when the National Assembly works more regularly, the National Assembly Standing Committee will not issue regulations anymore.

However, with this option, the president will not directly take part in the discussion and decisions of important issues at the National Assembly Standing Committee. Therefore, some opinions held that the president's function is only one of symbolic value, as noted in new Article 102. Consequently, new Article 103 has been added to the draft, and it stipulates that the president has the right to attend meetings held by the National Assembly Standing Committee. Regarding the duties and authority of the president, there is a supplementary paragraph, on which is worth noting that during a period of 10 days after any resolution and regulation approved by the National Assembly Standing Committee, the president has the right to request the National Assembly Standing Committee to reconsider. If the resolution or regulation is passed again by the National Assembly Standing Committee and the president does still not agree with it, the president can then present it to the National Assembly at its earliest session for consideration and final decision, as noted in new Article 102.

2. The option of having a council of state and a chairman of the council of state.

The amendment to Chapter 7 in the previous draft is as follows:

The duties and authority of the Council of State are defined in a way that it can be manifested that the Council of State is the standing body of the National Assembly and accountable to the National Assembly, as noted in revised Article 98. The National Assembly stipulates in the constitution the tasks which the National Assembly authorizes the Council of State to decide on and the tasks that must be presented to the National Assembly for approval after having been decided by the Council of State, as noted in revised Article 100. The chairman of the Council of State is the head of the state, attached to the Council of State. The system of collective leadership is no longer applicable, as noted in new Article 101.

The chairman of the Council of State has some important duties and authority. But more important issues must be decided upon by the Council of State with the function as a standing body of the National Assembly. Some recently-amended points worthy of note are: the delineation of the limitation of issuing of regulations by the Council of State, the Council of State's supervisory role on the activities of the Supreme People's Court, and the chief of the Supreme People's Organ of Control, as noted in revised Article 100.

Some duties and authorities of the Council of State stipulated in old Article 100 are transferred to the chairman of the Council of State. They are the announcement of the constitution, laws, regulations, and decisions to grant medals, orders, and other state decorations; promotion of high-ranking army officers; appointment, discharge, and withdrawal of diplomatic representatives; and the signing of international treaties on behalf of the state. On other important tasks, the chairman of the Council of State issues orders and decisions in conformity with resolutions issued by the Council of State, as noted in new Article 103.

Part 4

BK2703140392 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 25 Mar 92

["Part four" of a report delivered by Council of State Chairman Vo Chi Cong on 24 March in Hanoi at opening meeting of Eighth National Assembly's 11th session on "the fourth draft of amendments to the 1980 consitution"—read by anouncer]

[Text] Concerning Chapter 8 on the government, the following changes should be noted:

The position of the government is defined in the same way as in the 1980 Constitution. The government is an executive organ of the National Assembly and it is the highest administrative agency of the SRV. It is responsible to the National Assembly and it reports its tasks to the National Assembly and the National Assembly Standing Committee, noted in Article 107.

Most current members of the Council of Ministers are deputies of the National Assembly. Now it has been amended that, excluding the prime minister, it is not necessary for other members of the government to be members of the National Assembly, noted in Article 108.

Regarding the duties and authority of the government and the prime minister, according to the 1980 Constitution, the Council of Ministers applies the principle of collectivity in its work. The old Article 107 stipulates 26 points in the duties and authority of the Council of Ministers, but the role of the chairman of the Council of Ministers is only generally stipulated as to lead, direct, supervise, and control the Council of Ministers, noted in old Article 110. Now it is amended that the prime minister is the head of the government. The constitution will define the general role of the prime minister. In order to closely coordinate the authority of the government and prime minister, the law on organization of the government will clarify what issues must be collectively discussed and decided upon by the majority of the Council of Ministers and what issues can be decided by the prime minister.

The new Article 110 defines in detail the duties and authority of the government in 10 points, including the task of leading and supervising the people's councils at all levels to implement the government's resolutions and decrees. The article also defines the government's duty of presenting draft bills, regulations, and other legal bills to the National Assembly and the National Assembly Standing Committee, in line with its duties and authority.

The new Article 112 defines the duties and authority of the prime minister in six points in the direction of increasing the authority of the prime minister, including the noticeable authority of recommending to the National Assembly to form or eliminate ministries or ministry-level organs and submitting lists of government members for appointment and for appointing, dismissing, transfering, and discharging chairmen, deputy chairmen, and members of people's committees of cities and provinces directly subordinated to the central government. The prime minister is going to report important issues that the government must deal with to the public through means of the mass media.

Concerning Chapter 9 on the People's Council and People's Committee:

The Constitutional Amendment Committee realizes that it is necessary to confirm that our government is a united government and it is not possible to think of seperate central government and local government. The people's council is the local organ of government authority, it consists of local delegates, representing will, aspirations, and the right to mastery of the local people. It is elected by the local and responsible to its people and to the higher government agencies. The draft constitution stipulates that the people's council and people's committee at all levels are placed under the instruction of higher government agencies, and bound by all decisions of the central government.

In their duties and authority, the local government organs, with their area division and management authority given by the central government, are authorized to actively develop their creativeness to set forth measures to implement laws, resolutions, and directives of higher government organs. But they must not issue regulations contradicting to laws and regulations from higher government organs.

Through practical experience, there still are some unreasonable points that need to carefully review, study, and improve in the organization of government offices at al levels. For example, it needs to clarify the position of subwards and define what level can have a people's council. From now until the end of people's council term in 1994, the local organization of government office will be retained, but some points need to be changed quickly. The people's council in provinces and districts should consist of only one chairman and two vice chairmen. The position of secretary of the people's council should be eliminated. In villages, only the chairman of the people's council should be elected. The duties and authority of the standing people's council are defined mainly to ensure the implementation of resolutions issued by the people's council in Article 120.

The structure of the people's council needs further study in order to implement the essential and comprehensive renovation. Therefore, the duties and authority of the people's council in the present draft are not stipulated in as much detail as outlined in Article 115 of the previous draft. They are only stipulated generally in Article 118.

The people's councils have never formed a vertical system, but the people's council at the lower level is under the supervision and instruction of the people's council and people's committee at higher levels and the National Assembly, National Assembly Standing Committee, and the government.

In order to increase the administrative position and role of the local government office, and to heighten the authority of the chairman of the people's committee, the third draft changed the people's committee to the administrative committee. The chairman of the administrative committee would be appointed by a higher committee according to the recommendation of the committee. The vice chairman and members of the administrative committee would be appointed according to the chairman's recommendation. After receiving opinions from the public, the present draft goes back the old name, which is the people's committee, saving expenses caused by changing names. The people's council will continue to elect the people's committee and the people's committee will also be the executive organ of the people's council, and the people's committee continues to be an administrative organ of the local government in Article 124.

The fourth draft gives emphasis to the collective character of the people's committee activities. The people's committee decisions must be discussed collectively and approved by a majority vote in Article 126.

The Constitutional Amendment Committee suggests to add a new Article 127 to define the relations between the Vietnam Fatherland Front and the local government.

Part 5

BK2703140792 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 0500 GMT 26 Mar 92

["Fifth and last part" of a report delivered by Council of State Chairman Vo Chi Cong at the 24 March opening meeting of Eighth National Assembly's 11th Session in Hanoi on "the fourth draft of amendments to the 1980 Constitution"—read by announcer]

[Text] Q. [No reference to letters L through P as heard] Regarding Chapter 10: The people's court and the people's organ of control.

Some suggested the division of Chapter X into two separate chapters on the people's court and the people's organ of control. However, the constitution amendment committee deems the division not necessary. The contents of Chapter X on the people's court and the people's organ of control basically remain the same as they are. The constitution amendment committee intends to change the following points:

1. Concerning the people's court: Change the system of elected judges into the system of definitely appointed judges, in order to create conditions for continuous work for a relatively long period which allows judges to acquire professional skills and acumulate experience. The organizational law will stipulate the appointment procedures and the terms of judges' office—Article 130.

As for the organization of the people's court, some people suggested that it be organized by adjudicating echelons, and not by administrative units combined with the adjudicating levels as it is now. The constitution amendment committee holds that the current organization is rational in several respects because it can secure coordination among various committees and sectors at the same level, and it is convenient for the people. Moreover, this issue should be defined by law and not be included in the constitution.

Some others suggested the establishment of some specialized courts. The constitution amendment committee concurs in this suggestion but sees that it must be carried out step by step. The constitution may stipulate generally that some other courts will be established. To facilitate future stipulations by law, it is not advisable to name these various courts in the constitution, even though the establishment of economic courts is pressing—Article 129.

2. Regarding the people's organ of control: According to many people, the guideline for establishing the people's organ of control is to maintain the two functions of the present organ of control which involve general control and prosecution. Attention must be paid to the control of compliance with law to ensure scrupulous and unified law enforcement countrywide in the principle of vertically organizing the people's organ of control as it is now, because in the past the people's organ of control has considerably contributed to detecting law violations and consolidating the socialist legal system. However, we should stipulate that the operations of the people's organ of control must also follow the principle of democratic centralization. The major issues concerning its mission and authority must be debated by a collective and decided by a majority.

We should reexamine the scope of general control function and the scope of state inspection so as to avoid duplication. We should accept the people's suggestions to ensure that the major issues regarding the mission and authority of the organ of control can be settled in accordance with the principle of collectivity. The constitution amendment committee intends to add the following to Article 140: at the supreme people's organ of control, the provincial people's organs of control, the central military organ of control and the military region and equivalent organ of control, a control committee will be established and composed of a chief, deputy chiefs, and some controllers to debate and decide by a majority vote the major issues as prescribed by law. This is the use of control committee institutions as stipulated in Article 22 and 23 of the law on organizing the people's organ of control dated 4 July 1981, which was modified, supplemented, and upgraded to an institution of the constitution. The law will stipulate the procedures for appointing the members of control committees so that control committees will not be an advisory institution of the chief but constitute an institution vested with the right to decide on the major issues under the jurisdiction of the organ of control.

R. Regarding Chapters XI and XII: The national flag, enblem and anthem and the capital, and the effect of and amendment to the constitution.

It is intended to keep intact six of the seven articles of these two chapters, and only one article will be changed—Article 144. Formerly, when establishing the 1980 constitution, the question of composing a new national anthem was raised. As yet, due to the specific situation in our country, the replacememt of the national anthem is still deemed irrelevant. As a result, it is recommended that the Tien Quan Ca [Troops March Forward] song be defined in the constitution—Article 145.

Some other people also proposed to fix the size of the star on the national flag and the national flag color, to keep the tune but change the words of the national anthem, and to determine the capital. However, the constitution amendment committee intends to basically keep Chapters XI and XII.

III. Some works to ensure the scrupulous implementation of the revised constitution.

The revised constitution results from the intellectual contributions, the manifestation of a sense of mastery over the country and the spirit of constructive struggle of all party members and people, primarily of the national assembly deputies. The problem is how to have the constitution scrupulously implemented so that it truly serves as a legal basis for comprehensive renovation that is being carried out by all our people under the party leadership.

The constitution amendment committee wants to petition the following necessary works to be done immediately:

1. Broadly disseminate the revised constitution among the people and cadres after it has been passed by the national assembly. This is a pressing task to be done first. Recently, during the course of compiling the draft revised constitution, the people and cadres debated very democratically and gave their constructive ideas. Their ideas were very fruitful. Although many of them are unanimous, there are still some differing ideas on some specific issues and even over the points of view. After the national assembly has voted, everyone must firmly grasp the new points of the constitution, unanimously agree with the constitution, and scrupulously implement the constitution. Evidently, in the course of organizing the implementation of the constitution, new problems will emerge, new experiences will be derived, and new addenda should be needed. However, these are future tasks. In the immediate future, the revised constitution must be implemented scrupulously.

2. Urgently amend and formulate laws. We must urgently amend various clauses in texts of law and regulations, and texts of by- laws which are irrelevant to the revised constitution, and formulate new texts of laws, especially organizational laws, in order to concretize the relevant clauses of the constitution and to ensure the scrupulous implementation of the constitution. This is a major task to be carried out according to a proper plan. Yet the spirit of the task is to perform actively and urgently. At the same time, we must study the task carefully and steadily. The most important point that should be heeded is to scrutinize and compile the various published documents and lectures at colleges and research institutes and to make sure that they conform to the spirit and letter of the revised constitution.

3. Perfect the state machinery in general, especially organize the various councils and committees of the national assembly and the various specialized agencies, in order to protect the socialist legal system. During the drive to contribute views to the draft revised constitution, the people observed that the machinery of our state is cumbersome and ineffective, and that some cadres, including those in high positions of authority, are incompetent and degenerate. We should urgently reorganize and perfect the state agencies from the central down to grassroots levels and make them compact and effective. We must screen, train, and educate the contingents of cadres, especially those in leading positions at all levels, and boldly promote young competent, good and trustworthy cadres. At the same time, we must resolutely discipline and dismiss those degenerate cadres whose ability is not up to the par of their positions.

The constitution amendment committee has reported the results of the drive to solicit views of the people and cadres on the draft revised 1980 constitution. The main issues in the draft which the committee intended to compile on the basis of accepting the trustworthy suggestions of the people and cadres countrywide, and on the strength of the tasks to be done, is to ensure scrupulous implementation of the revised constitution. Large numbers of issues have been unanimously agreed upon among the people and cadres, as well as by the constitution amendment committee. However, there are still some differing issues which we are seeking to reach agreement on concerning how to make them suitable for the characteristics of the situation in our country against the background of complex changes in the world. I recommend the national assembly examine and decide on these issues in order to ensure that the 1980 constitution can be amended basically and comprehensively in response to the requirements of the new revolutionary stage, in order to reflect the will and aspiration of large numbers of people and cadres throughout the country.

Fiji

Police Contingent To Join UN Forces In Cambodia

BK3003071492 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0500 GMT 30 Mar 92

[Text] Fiji is reported to have decided to contribute a 50-member police contingent to United Nations operations in Cambodia. THE FIJI TIMES newspaper said the unit will be deployed in June on a nine-month rotation basis. An earlier proposal to send a battalion of Fiji troops on peacekeeping duties was rejected on cost grounds.

French Polynesia

Reports Continue on Greenpeace's Rainbow Warrior

Greenpeace Transmits Video

BK2903085492 Hong Kong AFP in English 0547 GMT 29 Mar 92

[By Tim Cribb]

[Text] Papeete, French Polynesia, March 28 (AFP)—Greenpeace, while failing in its bid to land at France's nuclear test site on Mururoa Atoll, scored a media victory this week with sophisticated television transmission equipment aboard its flagship Rainbow Warrior II.

Using a satellite video uplink, Greenpeace was able to send pictures of Thursday's dawn action to television stations around the world within hours of entering the 12-nautical mile exclusion zone around the South Pacific atoll.

Tony Mariner, creative director of Greenpeace Communications, was delighted with the success of his side of the operation.

"Our objectives have been reached in that we wanted this issue to reach the widest possible audience and it is certain we have," Mariner said in an interview here Saturday.

The concept of a video uplink from ships at sea was first tried during the 1991 Fastnet yacht race, but the pictures were below broadcast quality and the movement created a strobe effect.

To produce images acceptable for television required transmission of vast amounts of data, taking 100 minutes to send one minute of video.

"We went through the exercise again," Mariner said, and learned of three new developments: "a practical high-speed data link from ship to shore via a 56-kilobyte link, the means of analysing television pictures, and storing the information to computer disc using algorithms to compress the information."

Greenpeace Communications, working with the consultancy group Livewire, advanced the process of "store and forward" to increase image and motion quality.

The Rainbow Warrior pictures were recorded on a broadcast video camera and fed into a video Codec, which converted them into digital form.

"We have got it down to a point where it has been acceptable to broadcasters, given that you have an event of news interest," Mariner said, adding, "We can get it better."

The exercise was all the more remarkable because Mariner had only two weeks to prepare and deliver software and equipment to the Rainbow Warrior in Papeete before it sailed for Mururoa.

Customs held the equipment for two days, leaving technicians only three days to install a gyro-stabilised satellite dish and the computer equipment to establish the link, as well as to test the software.

Mariner was sure that he had overcome his numerous problems only when virtually live images of French marine commandos and Greenpeace activists racing towards Mururoa were delivered for all to see.

"This opens up enormous possibilities for convenient and relatively cheap video communication at sea," he said, adding, "the ether gods must have been with us on the day."

He managed to make three feeds on Thursday before commandos boarded the ship and seized his camera.

His digitised images were transmitted to London, where they were transferred to video, edited, and released to television news agencies.

The Australian Broadcasting Corp. combined Mariner's footage with voice reports from radio journalist Peter Mares, who was filing from the bridge when the Rainbow Warrior was boarded. The ship was headed for Mururoa to set up a peace camp in protest against continued underground nuclear testing there.

"The French were going to stop this, and the pictures showed their response in a dramatic enough way that appealed to news," Mariner said.

The video uplink cost "less than 100,000 pounds" to develop, relying in the main on bringing together the right people to put their minds to the problem of brodcasts from a vessel at sea.

"Greenpeace merely acted as a catalyst," Mariner said.

"I was very nervous about this, having convinced the organisation that this was going to work and they should commit themselves. Everyone was telling me you are crazy, this is not going to work," he said.

"This sort of stuff takes months to be developed and installed and checked, but this is not the way Greenpeace works... we just went for it."

Ship Released After Two-Day Siege

BK2903093892 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0500 GMT 29 Mar 92

[Text] The Greenpeace environmentalist ship, Rainbow Warrior II, has left (Fungatofa) Atoll two days after it was seized by French commandos off the nuclear test site of Mururoa. French authorities in Tahiti said the ship was towed outside the 12 nautical mile exclusion zone around the atoll then handed over to its Spanish Captain (Juan Kita) and seven of his crew.

The ship was seized off Mururoa last Thursday as Greenpeace activists tried to set up a camp on the atoll, where France is due to resume its underground nuclear testing program in May.

Greenpeace also wanted to collect evidence of suspected radiation leakage at the atoll. France denies there is any such leakage. Official sources in Tahiti said the French High Commissioner or Government executive was studying a request from Greenpeace for Rainbow Warrior II to sail (?with a weeks's supply).

French Commander Denies Accounts

BK2803084692 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0500 GMT 28 Mar 92

[Text] The commander of French military forces in the South Pacific has denied allegations made by the environmental group, Greenpeace, following a seizure of its vessel, the Rainbow Warrior II.

The ship was seized yesterday by French officials after it penetrated the 12 nautical mile territorial limit around Mururoa Atoll—a French nuclear test site.

Greenpeace claims the decision to then move the boat to a nearby atoll with only seven crew was irresponsible. However, Admiral (Francois Keraff), says the decision was made in conjunction with the captain of the Rainbow Warrior II because of a tropical storm.

The authorities in French Polynesia say as soon as the weather improves, the vessel will be escorted outside French territorial waters.

Meanwhile, they have begun expelling a number of the ship's crew and passengers.

Papua New Guinea

Premier Namaliu Implicated in Corruption Probe

BK2703113492 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0500 GMT 27 Mar 92

[Text] In Papua New Guinea [PNG], the chairman of the leadership tribunal says the prime minister, Rabbie Namaliu, has been implicated in corruption and his role should be investigated by the appropriate authorities. Judge Moses (Jalina) says Mr. Namaliu appears to be more influenced by political considerations than legal considerations in providing money to other politicians. From Port Moresby Brian Abbott reports.

[Begin Abbott recording] Judge (Jalina) was handing down a guilty verdict on 43 charges of corruption and misconduct in office by suspended Labor Minister Tony Ila. The leadership tribunal heard evidence that Mr. Namaliu had authorized payments totalling 49,000 kina or Australian $67,000 to Mr. Ila after he left the Pangu Party and threatened to support an opposition vote of no-confidence in the government. Judge (Jalina) said Mr. Namaliu and Finance Minister Paul Pora should have considered the money was public money and not theirs to give away. He said they appeared more influenced by political rather than legal considerations, saying they should be investigated by the appropriate authorities and brought to justice. [end recording]

Namaliu Claims Innocence

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[Text] The prime minister of Papua New Guinea [PNG], Rabbie Namaliu, says he is innocent of any corruption and has called for an investigation of the role of the country's opposition leader Paias Wingti. Brian Abbott reports Mr. Namaliu says his actions in approving funds for suspended Labor Minister Tony Ila (?are) in the law and not a breach of PNG's strict leadership code.

[Begin Abbott recording] Mr. Namaliu says the opposition moved or proposed more no-confidence motions than ever before in the two years after he became prime minister in 1988 after winning a vote of no-confidence. He says the opposition offered government members (?pacts) other forms of inducement including ministerial positions for their supports. Mr. Namaliu says in the interest of fairness and truth, the role of opposition leader, Paias Wingti, must be investigated too if there is a further probe at payments made to Mr. Ila. On Friday, a leadership tribunal said Mr. Namaliu obtained more influence by political considerations in approving payments to Mr. Ila at the time of the no-confidence move and call for an investigation under [word indistinct] of justice have almost implicated in the use of public money by politicians. [end recording]